

Chapter 3

Calculating Pell and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Awards

Pell Grant awards are based on the 9-month Expected Family Contribution (EFC) on the student’s valid SAR or ISIR, the academic year structure (see *Chapter 1* of this volume), and the cost of attendance (COA) for a full-time student for a full academic year (see *Chapter 2* of this volume). The Scheduled Award amounts are specified on the Pell Grant payment schedules released by the U.S. Department of Education (the Department). For term-based programs, awards for part-time students are also based on enrollment status, using the part-time charts in the Pell Grant payment schedules.

In this chapter, we’ll show you how to calculate Pell Grant and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant (IASG) payments for your students, using the appropriate formula.

The Sequester and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants

The Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011 put into place a federal budget cut known as the sequester. The Pell Grant program is exempt from the effects of the sequester, so Pell Grant payment schedules are unchanged. However, the sequester requires reductions of the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant award amount for which a student would otherwise be eligible. For details on how the sequester affects Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant award amounts, see the [Electronic Announcement posted on May 19, 2022](#) in the Knowledge Center.

Scheduled Award, Award Year, and Annual Award

The Scheduled Award is the maximum amount a student can receive during the award year, if the student attends *full time* for a *full* academic year. The award year begins on July 1 of one year and ends on June 30 of the next year. For example, the 2022-2023 award year begins July 1, 2022, and ends June 30, 2023. (See also the "Year-Round Pell and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant" section later in this chapter.)

The student’s **Scheduled Award** is established by the Pell Grant payment schedules that the Department issues prior to the start of each award year. The amount of the Scheduled Award is always taken from the full-time payment schedule and is based on the student’s EFC and COA. The **annual award** is the maximum amount a student would receive during a full academic year for a given enrollment status, EFC, and COA. Note that for a full-time student, the annual award will be the same as the Scheduled Award.

Pell Grant payment and disbursement schedules

[Dear Colleague Letter GEN-22-04 \(REVISED 2022-2023 Federal Pell Grant Payment and Disbursement Schedules\)](#)
[April 11, 2022 Electronic Announcement \(EA ID: GRANTS-22-03\)](#)

(Operational Implementation Guidance - Federal Student Aid’s Implementation of Revised 2022-2023 Federal Pell Grant Payment and Disbursement Schedules)

A part-time student who is enrolled in a term-based program will have an *annual award* that is less than the Scheduled Award. If the student attends part time, the student’s annual award is taken from the three-quarter-time, half-time, or less-than-half-time disbursement schedules. For instance, if a student’s Scheduled Award is \$6,895, but the student is enrolled as a half-time student in a term program, the student’s annual award would be \$3,448. The Department issues one schedule for full-time Scheduled Awards, and separate schedules for three-quarter-time, half-time, and less-than-half-time awards.

The tables below show selected EFC and COA amounts as they are displayed in the Pell Grant full-time Scheduled Award

and half-time annual award schedules for the 2022-2023 award year. These tables show, for example, that the Scheduled Award for a full-time student with an EFC from 3501 to 3600 and a COA from \$5,000 to \$5,099 would be \$1,500. A half-time student with the same EFC and COA would have an annual award of \$750.

Federal Pell Grant Program Payment Schedule for Determining *FULL-TIME* Scheduled Awards in the 2022-2023 Award Year

Cost of Attendance			Expected Family Contribution								
			0	1	501	1001	2501	3501	4501	6201	6207
			To	To	To	To	To	To	To	To	To
			0	100	600	1100	2600	3600	4600	6206	999999
1000	-	1099	1050	1000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2000	-	2099	2050	2000	1500	1000	0	0	0	0	0
3000	-	3099	3050	3000	2500	2000	0	0	0	0	0
4000	-	4099	4050	4000	3500	3000	1500	0	0	0	0
5000	-	5099	5050	5000	4500	4000	2500	1500	0	0	0
6000	-	6099	6050	6000	5500	5000	3500	2500	1500	0	0
6895	-	99999	6895	6845	6345	5845	4345	3345	2345	692	0

Federal Pell Grant Program Payment Schedule for Determining *HALF-TIME* Scheduled Awards in the 2022-2023 Award Year

Cost of Attendance			Expected Family Contribution								
			0	1	501	1001	2501	3501	4501	6201	6207
			To	To	To	To	To	To	To	To	To
			0	100	600	1100	2600	3600	4600	6206	999999
1000	-	1099	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2000	-	2099	1025	1000	750	0	0	0	0	0	0
3000	-	3099	1525	1500	1250	1000	0	0	0	0	0
4000	-	4099	2025	2000	1750	1500	750	0	0	0	0
5000	-	5099	2525	2500	2250	2000	1250	750	0	0	0
6000	-	6099	3025	3000	2750	2500	1750	1250	750	0	0
6895	-	999999	3448	3423	3173	2923	2173	1673	1173	0	0

Pell Grant awards for 2022-2023

The maximum Pell Grant award is \$6,895 (see the Year-Round Pell and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant section later in this chapter on how a student may be eligible to receive up to an additional 50% of their scheduled award). The maximum eligible EFC for the 2022-2023 award year is 6206. Actual Pell awards are unique to individual students and are based upon and limited by the student's enrollment status, EFC, COA, and Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU). For more on LEU, see the subsection “Pell Grant and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU)” later in this chapter.

Prohibition on concurrent enrollment and Pell Grant

A student may not receive Pell Grant payments concurrently from more than one school. A student who withdraws from one school and enrolls at least one day later in another school is normally not considered to have been enrolled concurrently. If a student is awarded Pell for any period of concurrent enrollment, the student has the choice of which award to receive, but is limited to a single award from a single school.

Prohibition on concurrent enrollment

Children of Fallen Heroes (CFH) Scholarship Act

Beginning with the 2018-19 award year, an otherwise Pell-eligible student whose parent or guardian died as a result of active service in the line of duty as a Public Safety Officer (defined under 42 U.S.C. 3796b), or a fire police officer may receive the maximum Pell Grant and increased amounts of other federal student aid if the student was less than 24 years old when the parent or guardian died, or was enrolled at an institution of higher education at the time of the parent or guardian's death. You must use an EFC of zero to package all federal student aid if a student meeting the above criteria has a Pell-eligible EFC. Note that the zero EFC is only used for packaging purposes; you do not actually change the student's calculated EFC.

When you identify a student as meeting the criteria for the CFH Scholarship Act, you will set the CFH indicator in FAA Access. This indicator becomes part of the ISIR file and is printed on the SAR, eSAR, and ISIR from EDEXpress. Comment code 402 is assigned to a student's records, alerting the student that they may be eligible for additional aid under the CFH Act and instructing them to contact their financial aid administrator (FAA) for more information. Once you have determined that a student meets the eligibility criteria for the CFH Scholarship Act, neither your school nor any other school is required to redetermine that student's CFH Scholarship Act eligibility for subsequent award years.

CFH Scholarship Act

[November 19, 2018 Electronic Announcement](#)

HEA Section 473 [20 USC 3796(b)]

Minimum Pell Grant and LEU

Under section 401(b)(4) of the HEA, the minimum award is set at 10% of the maximum award appropriated each year. Because midpoints are used for the EFC and COA columns in constructing the Pell payment schedules, the minimum Pell award for a full-time student is actually slightly higher than 10% of the maximum Pell award. Students who are eligible for less than the minimum award are not Pell eligible for 2022-23, unless the reason for their low Pell eligibility was truncation due to Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU) limitations (for more on LEU, see the "Pell and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant LEU" section later in this chapter).

There is no de minimis award amount for purposes of determining a student's award because of the 600% LEU limitation. Therefore, even a student with a very small remaining LEU is eligible to receive the calculated amount of the Pell Grant, as long as the LEU is not exceeded. For example, a full-time student with an EFC of 3750, COA of \$7,000, and an LEU of 599.500% would be eligible for the remaining 0.500% which is \$15.72 (if your school only disburses in whole dollars, this amount must be rounded down to \$15, because \$16 would exceed the student's maximum LEU).

Academic calendar and enrollment status changes

Because the academic calendar for a program determines which Pell formula you use, you need to review the conditions for the use of each formula if the calendar for the program changes. This is particularly true if you are using Formulas 1 and 2, which have the most restrictive conditions.

If a student's enrollment status changes during the year, your school may have to recalculate the student's Pell Grant payment based on the new enrollment status. At the end of this chapter we'll discuss when a school is required to recalculate a student's Pell Grant payment due to a change in enrollment status.

Enrollment status changes

[34 CFR 690.80\(b\)](#)

Enrollment status under consortium agreement

The enrollment status of a student attending more than one school under a consortium agreement is based on all the courses taken that apply to the degree or certificate at the home school. The disbursing school may have to make some adjustments if the coursework at the other school is measured in different units.

Enrollment status for cooperative education

In a cooperative education program, your school assesses the work to be performed by the student and determines the equivalent academic course load. The student's enrollment status is based on the equivalent academic course load.

Department of Defense (DOD) Match Flag and SAR Comment Code 298

If you received an ISIR containing the DOD Match Flag "Y", with the parent's date of death and SSN, the student could potentially be eligible for additional Title IV aid, including a maximum Pell Grant award or an Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant. The DOD Match Flag is the result of the match with the Department of Defense to identify an applicant whose parent was a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who died as a result of service in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001.

A SAR comment code is not always printed. When a student matches with the DOD file, the ISIR always shows a "Y" in the DOD Match Flag field and the parent's date of death is populated. However, SAR comment code 298 (which informs the student of a possible change in the student's eligibility for federal student aid) is only generated when the CPS DOD Table is updated after the student filed the FAFSA (a system generated transaction occurs and generates the comment). For more details, see the [2022-2023 ISIR Guide \(Updated Oct. 4, 2021\)](#).

Determining enrollment status using credit hour equivalencies

For students enrolled in direct assessment programs and students with intellectual disabilities enrolled in comprehensive transition and postsecondary (CTP) programs, enrollment status can be calculated using credit hour "equivalencies" rather than credit hours.

For direct assessment programs, schools must develop a methodology, consistent with the requirements of the school's accrediting agency or state, to reasonably equate each class or competency in the direct assessment program to either credit hour or clock hour equivalencies. For more information, see *Volume 2, Chapter 2* of the *FSA Handbook*.

Enrollment status for students with intellectual disabilities enrolled in CTP programs may also be determined using credit hour equivalencies. These equivalent credits, earned from audited courses and other normally noncredit activities undertaken as part of a program for students with disabilities, may be awarded for purposes of determining enrollment status. For more detail, see *Volume 1, Chapter 1* of the *FSA Handbook*.

Pell Grant Administrative Cost Allowance (ACA)

For each student that receives a Pell Grant at your school each award year, your school is paid \$5 to help cover associated administrative costs. ACA amounts will be posted in G5 as an Available Balance (look for Award Number P063Q18#####). ACA amount notifications will be sent to your SAIG mailbox (look for Message Class PGAS19OP). This money must be used solely to pay for the costs of administering the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Work-Study (FWS), and FSEOG programs.

Pell Grant ACA

[34 CFR 690.10](#)

HEA Section 489(a)

[February 25, 2022 Electronic Announcement](#)

Ground rules for Pell Grants

Fractions

When using fractions, be careful to multiply first, and then divide to avoid an incorrect result. For example, here's the correct way to prorate a \$2,150 Scheduled Award for a payment period that is a nonstandard term of 10 weeks of instructional time, for a program that has 30 weeks of instructional time:

$$(2,150 \times 10) \div 30 = 716.67$$

In this case, if you were to first divide the fraction consisting of the weeks in the payment period over the weeks in the academic year to get a decimal ($10 \div 30 = 0.333333\dots$) and then round the decimal either down (0.33) or up (0.34), multiplying that decimal by the Scheduled Award amount would result in a number that's too low or too high:

$$0.33 \times 2,150 = 709.50$$

$$0.34 \times 2,150 = 731.00$$

Rounding

The Common Origination and Disbursement System (COD) accepts cents and whole dollar amounts in payment amounts for Pell. If your school disburses in whole dollar amounts, you may round up if the decimal is 0.50 or higher, or round down if it's less than 0.50. When rounding for a student expected to be enrolled for more than one payment period in the award year, alternate rounding up and down, unless a different Pell award amount is calculated for the following term (for example, when a student's enrollment status changes). In this case, the alternate rounding restarts and you may round up for two consecutive terms. Your policy on rounding must be applied equally to all students.

As an example, consider a student who is enrolled full time in a program offered in a traditional academic calendar consisting of fall and spring semesters. The student's full-time annual award for 2022-2023 is \$6,745 (based on an EFC of 116 and a COA of \$30,000). Under Pell Formula 1 (as described later in this chapter), the student's full-time payment for each of the two terms (fall and spring) is \$3,372.50. Using the rounding rule stated above, you would round the student's fall payment up to \$3,373, and round the spring payment down to \$3,372. However, if the student's enrollment status changes to three-quarter-time in the spring semester, their annual award is \$5,059, and the three-quarter-time payment for the spring semester is \$2,529.50. You would restart the alternate rounding and round the spring payment up to \$2,530.

Important: These rounding rules do not apply if the amount disbursed would exceed the student's Scheduled Award or place the student's LEU over 600%. For more on LEU for Pell and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants, see "Pell and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant LEU" later in this chapter.

An otherwise Pell-eligible student whose parent or guardian died as a result of U.S. military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001, may receive increased amounts of federal student aid if the student was less than 24 years old when the parent or guardian died, or was enrolled at an institution of higher education at the time of the parent or guardian's death. There are two different provisions for eligible children of soldiers, depending on whether or not the student has a Pell-eligible EFC:

- Zero EFC treatment for dependents of certain deceased veterans
- Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants

Zero EFC treatment for dependents of certain deceased veterans

A school must use an EFC of zero to package all federal student aid if a student meeting the above criteria has a Pell-eligible EFC. (Note that the zero EFC is only used for packaging purposes; you do not actually change the student's calculated EFC.) When submitting an origination to COD for a student of this type, you must include the CPS transaction containing the DOD Match Flag set to "Y," or the award will not be accepted. (Note that a student with a non-Pell-eligible EFC is potentially eligible to receive an Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant — see below).

Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant

To receive the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant, the student must have an EFC that is not Pell-eligible. Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants are made under the same terms and conditions as Pell Grants, and disbursements for each payment period are calculated in the same manner as described in this chapter for Pell Grants. Unlike Pell Grants, however, Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant award amounts must be reduced as required by the federal budget cut known as the sequester. See "The Sequester and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants" earlier in this chapter.

When submitting an origination to COD for a student receiving an Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant, you must include the CPS transaction containing the DOD Match Flag set to "Y," or the award will not be accepted. The award may not exceed the student's COA. Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants are not considered Estimated Financial Assistance for packaging purposes. For more detail on packaging awards, see *Chapter 7* of this volume. Note that children of public safety officers (see the "Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act" section earlier in this chapter) are not eligible for Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants.

The Year-Round Pell provision also applies to Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants. For more detail on how to calculate Year-Round Pell and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants, see the Year-Round Pell and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant section later in this chapter.

Additional eligibility for children of certain deceased veterans

HEA Section 420R

[November 6, 2009 Electronic Announcement](#)

Identification of eligible students and notification by the Department

The Department will notify the student when a student appears to meet the criteria for Zero EFC treatment for

dependents of certain deceased veterans or the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant, based on a match with a Department of Defense file of eligible dependents. The match will be performed when a student submits a FAFSA or FAFSA correction (and periodically thereafter). When an eligible student is identified, the Department will generate a Central Processing System (CPS) transaction for the student, and the resulting ISIR will include a “DOD Match Flag,” associated comment code 298 (in some cases), and the parent or guardian’s date of death.

Note that Zero EFC treatment under this provision will not force an auto-zero EFC; the EFC will be calculated based on the student’s financial situation, but you must use the flag and date of the parent's or guardian’s death, along with the student’s calculated EFC, to determine if the student is eligible for Zero EFC treatment or an Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant award. The Department will also send a letter to each matched student that informs the student of their possible increase in eligibility for FSA funds. The letter advises the student to contact the financial aid administrator at their school for more information.

For more information on code 298 and other SAR comment codes, see the [2022-23 SAR Comment Code Guide](#).

Terms and Payments Methods for Calculating Pell

With the exception of subscription-based programs (see *Volume 2* and *Chapter 1* of this volume for information on subscription-based programs), if all coursework is scheduled to be completed within a specific time frame, the program generally can be considered term-based. Term-based programs can have either standard terms or nonstandard terms. Pell Grants are usually calculated differently for the two types of terms. Standard term programs may be treated similarly to nonstandard term programs if the program does not conform to a traditional academic calendar or meet certain other conditions. Regardless of whether coursework is generally offered using terms, schools always have the option of treating a program as a non-term program for Title IV purposes. See *Chapter 1* of this volume for detailed guidance on standard term, nonstandard term, and non-term programs.

When calculating Pell Grants, you must generally use the same formula for all years in a student’s program. In most cases, a program’s academic calendar determines the particular formula that must be used to calculate Pell Grant awards, and that formula is then used for all years of the program. However, for programs offered in standard terms a school has the option of choosing between different Pell formulas, as explained later in this chapter. For such programs a school normally chooses one of the allowable formulas and uses that same formula for the duration of the program, but in rare cases a school may have reason to change from the originally selected formula to a different allowable formula. Any such change in Pell formulas for standard term programs can only be made at the beginning of a new award year.

Basic Pell Grant calculations

[34 CFR 690.62](#) – Pell Grant payment schedules

[34 CFR 690.63](#) – Pell Grant formulas

[34 CFR 690.64](#) – crossover payment periods (e.g., summer sessions)

Determining the award year for crossover Pell awards

You must source Pell Grant funds from the award year to which the payment period is assigned. When awarding Pell Grants for a crossover payment period, you may assign the payment period to the award year that best meets the needs of your students and maximizes a student’s eligibility over the two award years in which the crossover payment period occurs. For more detail on crossover payment periods, see the section on crossover payment periods later in this chapter.

Credit-Hour Term-Based Programs

Annual award based on enrollment status

In a term-based program, academic progress is always measured in credit hours, and the student’s annual award depends on their enrollment status. Your school’s standards for enrollment status must meet the minimum regulatory requirements, which are discussed in further detail in *Volume 1, Chapter 1* of the *FSA Handbook*.

For standard terms in undergraduate programs, the minimum enrollment standards are:

Full-time:	12 semester hours per semester/trimester
	12 quarter hours per quarter
3/4-time:	9 semester hours per semester/trimester
	9 quarter hours per quarter
1/2-time:	6 semester hours per semester/trimester
	6 quarter hours per quarter
Less-than-1/2-time:	less than half of the workload of the minimum full-time requirement.

If the student is enrolled full time, then the annual award is the Scheduled Award, which is based on the full-time payment schedule. If the student is attending part time, you must use the three-quarter-time, half-time, or less-than-half-time payment schedules, depending on the number of credit hours in which the student enrolls.

If the student is enrolled less than half time, it will also affect the cost components that are used in the student’s budget (see *Chapter 2* of this volume). Note that schools do not have the discretion to refuse to pay an eligible part-time student, including during a summer term or intersession.

On the appropriate full-time or part-time payment schedules, use the student’s COA and EFC to find the Pell Grant annual award at that enrollment status. Most student aid software programs, such as EDExpress, will do this for you automatically, but you can also refer to the Pell Grant payment schedules online on the Knowledge Center.

Pell Grant payments by term

Pell Grants must be paid in installments over the course of a program of study to help meet the student’s cost in each payment period. The payment period affects when Pell funds are disbursed and the exact amount to be disbursed. For credit-hour term-based programs, the payment period is the term.

A student who doesn’t enroll in one of the terms of a program won’t receive a portion of their award for that payment period. If the student’s enrollment status changes in the next term, the annual award will be different for that term.

If any program uses standard terms, the enrollment status standards in the program don’t have to be proportional. For instance, a program could have a 15-hour standard for full-time enrollment, but set a 9-hour minimum for three-quarter-time status and a 6-hour minimum for half-time status. In addition, your school’s academic standard may differ from the enrollment standard used by the financial aid office for FSA purposes.

For example, your school's academic policy may define full time as six hours during the summer, but the financial aid office uses 12 hours as the full-time standard for all terms, including the summer term. Your school must apply its FSA full-time enrollment standards consistently to all students enrolled in the same program of study for all FSA purposes. For more on enrollment status, see *Volume 1, Chapter 1*.

Enrollment status for students taking a combination of regular and correspondence courses

If a student is enrolled in a non-correspondence study program, but correspondence coursework is combined with regular coursework, the correspondence courses must meet the following criteria to be included in the student’s enrollment status:

- The courses must apply toward the student’s degree or certificate or must be remedial work to help the student in their course of study.
- The courses must be completed during the period required for the student’s regular coursework (e.g., a term).
- The amount of correspondence work counted can’t be more than the number of credit hours of regular coursework in which the student is enrolled (although a student taking at least a half-time load of correspondence courses must be paid as at least a half-time student, regardless of the credit-hours of regular coursework).

A student will be paid as a less-than-half-time student for any combination of regular and correspondence work that is less than six credit-hours or the appropriate equivalent of half-time.

Enrollment Status for Enrollment in Correspondence and Regular Coursework

<i>Regular Work</i>	<i>Correspondence Work</i>	<i>Adjusted Total Coursework</i>	<i>Enrollment Status</i>
3	3	6	Half-time
3	6	6	Half-time
3	9	6	Half-time
6	3	9	Three-quarter-time
6	6	12	Full-time
2	6	6	Half-time

This chart assumes that the school defines full-time enrollment as 12 credit hours per term, and half-time enrollment as six credit hours per term. As you can see in the second and third rows of the table, the number of correspondence hours counted in the total course load was adjusted so that the correspondence hours never exceeded the regular hours taken. Note that in the last row of the table, the student is eligible for payment based on half-time enrollment in correspondence courses, because not all of the correspondence work can be counted toward enrollment status.

Consortium different units example

Chris is taking six semester hours at Aroldis University, the home school, and nine quarter hours at Coghlan Technical Institute. To determine his enrollment status, Aroldis needs to convert the hours at Coghlan into semester hours.

Because a quarter hour is about two-thirds of a semester hour, Aroldis multiplies the number of quarter hours by two-thirds:

$9 \text{ quarter hours} \times \frac{2}{3} = 6 \text{ semester hours}$

Then the hours taken at both schools can be added together:

$6 \text{ semester hours at Aroldis} + 6 \text{ semester hours at Coghlan} = 12 \text{ semester hours}$

Linda is also taking six semester hours at Aroldis University and nine quarter hours at Coghlan Technical Institute, but her home school is Coghlan Technical Institute.

Because Coghlan is paying her, it needs to convert the semester hours taken at Aroldis into quarter hours:

$6 \text{ semester hours} \times \frac{3}{2} = 9 \text{ quarter hours}$

Then, the hours taken at both schools can be added together:

$9 \text{ quarter hours at Coghlan} + 9 \text{ quarter hours at Aroldis} = 18 \text{ quarter hours}$

Pell Formula 1: Credit-Hour Programs Using Standard Terms With At Least 30 Weeks of Instructional Time

To use Pell Formula 1, the program must:

- Measure academic progress in credit hours;
- Be offered in semesters, trimesters, or quarters;
- Define full-time enrollment for each term in the award year as at least 12 credit hours; and
- Use an academic calendar providing at least 30 weeks of instructional time that meets either of the following sets of requirements:
 1. The academic calendar consists of two semesters or trimesters (fall and spring) or three quarters (fall, winter, and spring), none of which overlap any other term in the program (including a summer term, which need not meet the definition of a standard term); **or**
 2. The academic calendar consists of any two semesters or trimesters or any three quarters where—
 - The school starts the terms for different cohorts of students on a periodic basis (e.g., monthly);
 - The program is offered exclusively in semesters, trimesters, or quarters; and
 - Students are not allowed to be enrolled simultaneously in overlapping terms and must stay with the cohort in which they start unless they withdraw from a term (or skip a term) and re-enroll in a subsequent term.

For Formula 1, the term is the payment period, and you divide the student’s award by the number of terms in the program’s academic year. You can combine modules into a standard term that meets the requirements for Formula 1. (See the discussion under "Combining modules into a standard term" in *Chapter 1* of this volume for examples.) You must use the same formula for a program for all payment periods in an award year.

Pell Formula 1

[34 CFR 690.63\(a\)\(1\)](#)
[34 CFR 690.63\(b\)](#)

Alternate calculation

If a standard-term program meets the requirements to use Formula 1 or Formula 2, you have the option of dividing the annual award by the number of all the terms (including the summer term) in the award year.

Formula 1: Basic Calculation

In Formula 1, the annual award is simply divided by the number of terms in the fall through spring at a school with a traditional academic calendar.

Take the case of Jake, who is enrolled full-time in a program that has an academic year of 30 weeks of instructional time and 24 semester hours. The program has fall and spring semesters that provide a total of 30 weeks of instruction and a 12-week summer nonstandard term. Full-time enrollment is defined as 12 semester hours. Jake has a Scheduled Award of \$3,050, and because he is enrolled full time, that is also his annual award. Because the fall through spring has standard terms, it doesn't matter that the summer term is nonstandard; you still calculate the summer payment using Formula 1.

$$\$3,050 \div 2 = \$1,525 \text{ disbursement each semester}$$

The same formula would be used if Jake enrolled in a program that has fall, winter, and spring quarters that provide at least 30 weeks of instruction and has a summer term, with full-time enrollment defined as 12 quarter hours. The only difference is that Jake's annual award of \$3,050 is divided by three instead of two.

$$\$3,050 \div 3 = \$1,016.66 \text{ disbursement each quarter}$$

Note that Jake is receiving a full Scheduled Award because he is attending for two semesters or three quarters as a full-time student. If Jake enrolls at least half time for a term in the summer, he may be eligible to receive further Pell funds from the Year-Round Pell provision. See the Year-Round Pell and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant section later in this chapter.

Formula 1: Basic Calculation Nontraditional Academic Calendar

Majel is enrolled full-time at Roddenberry University in a program that has an academic year of 36 weeks of instructional time and 36 quarter hours, and is offered exclusively in quarters. A new cohort of students starts a quarter on the first workday of each month, and a student is not allowed to take courses in overlapping terms outside that student's cohort.

Any three quarters of the program provide at least 36 weeks of instructional time since each quarter is 12 weeks of instructional time in length. To be full time, a student must be enrolled in at least 12 quarter hours for a quarter. Majel has a Scheduled Award of \$3,000, and because she is enrolled full time, that is also her annual award.

Because any three quarters are at least 30 weeks of instructional time and the academic year encompasses three quarters, Majel's payment for each payment period is calculated by dividing the annual award by three:

$$\$3,000 \div 3 = \$1,000$$

Note that Majel is receiving a full Scheduled Award because she is attending for three terms as a full-time student and may be eligible for further Pell funds for the subsequent payment period if she satisfies the requirements for a Year-Round Pell award; for more details, see the Year-Round Pell and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant section later in this chapter.

Formula 1: Enrollment status change

Yan enrolls full time in the fall semester at his local community college. He has a cost of \$10,000 and EFC of 100, so his Scheduled Award, taken from the full-time payment schedule, is \$6,845. Since he's attending full time, this is also his annual award. If the school defines its academic year as 30 weeks of instructional time and 24 semester hours, Yan's annual award is divided by two to arrive at the disbursement for the fall semester.

$$\$6,845 \div 2 = \$3,422.50 \text{ for Fall}$$

Yan enrolls in the spring term as a three-quarter-time student. His EFC is the same, and even though his tuition is slightly less, the Pell award is still based on full-time costs. However, his annual award is now based on the three-quarter-time payment schedule, so his spring payment will be less than his fall payment.

$$\$5,134 \div 2 = \$2,567.00 \text{ for Spring}$$

Note that Yan’s Scheduled Award is still \$6,845, and he has only received \$5,989.50. This means that he is still eligible for up to \$855.50 in Pell funds from his first Scheduled Award if he attends a summer term assigned to the same award year (if this will not put him over his Pell Grant LEU limit). Yan may also be eligible for a Year-Round Pell award if he continues to be enrolled at least half time. A student may receive funds from the initial Pell award and from the Year-Round Pell award in the same payment period. For more detail, see the Year-Round Pell and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant section later in this chapter.

Pell Formula 2: Standard-Term Programs With Less Than 30 Weeks in the Fall Through Spring

Pell Formula 2 may be used for programs that would qualify for Formula 1 except that the program’s academic calendar provides less than 30 weeks of instructional time in the fall through spring terms. Like Formula 1, it simplifies the calculation of payments by using the same calculation for all payment periods in the award year. Because only a small number of schools use Formula 2, we cover this formula in *Appendix A* at the end of the chapter.

Pell Formula 2

[34 CFR 690.63\(a\)\(2\)](#)
[34 CFR 690.63\(c\)](#)

Pell Formula 3: General Formula For Any Term Based Program

Any term-based program may use this formula for Pell calculations, but you *must* use this formula for a term-based program that does not qualify for Formulas 1 or 2 (for instance, a program that uses only nonstandard terms). To calculate the payment for the term, you must prorate the annual award that you looked up on the appropriate Pell Grant payment schedule. Unlike the calculation in Formula 1, the annual award can’t simply be divided evenly among the terms. Instead, you must multiply the annual award by a fraction that represents the weeks of instructional time in the term divided by the weeks of instructional time in the program’s academic year.

$$\frac{\text{weeks}^1 \text{ in term}}{\text{weeks}^1 \text{ in academic year (at least 30)}}$$

When using fractions, first multiply the annual award by the number of weeks in the term, and then divide the result by the number of weeks in the academic year. Dividing the fraction first to produce a decimal and then multiplying the annual award by the decimal can cause an error if you need to round the decimal up or down. If the resulting amount is more than 50% of the annual award, you must generally make the payment in at least two disbursements in that payment period regardless of whether the term is a standard term or a nonstandard term. A single disbursement for a payment period can generally not be for more than 50% of the annual award. You may disburse more than 50% of the annual award once the student has completed half of the weeks of instructional time in the program’s academic year definition.

¹This fraction uses weeks of instructional time as defined in *Chapter 1* of this volume, which are not necessarily the same number as the calendar

Pell Formula 3

[34 CFR 690.63\(a\)\(3\)](#)

[34 CFR 690.63\(d\)](#)

Enrollment status standards for nonstandard terms

If you are using Formula 3 for a program that contains standard terms, the minimum enrollment standards previously discussed would still apply for the standard terms. However, if a program has nonstandard terms, the enrollment standard must be calculated for the nonstandard terms. Full-time enrollment status is determined for a nonstandard term as follows, based on the length of the term in relation to the academic year.¹

$$\text{Credit-hours in academic year} \times (\text{weeks}^2 \text{ in nonstandard term} \div \text{weeks}^2 \text{ in academic year (at least 30)})$$

After you determine the number of credit hours required for full-time enrollment, you can then determine the less-than-full-time status for the nonstandard term using the following formula:

$$\text{Credit hours student takes in the nonstandard term} \div \text{Credit hours required for full-time enrollment in the nonstandard term}$$

Determining enrollment status for nonstandard terms

[34 CFR 668.2](#)

¹ If the resulting number isn't a whole number, it is rounded up to the next whole number. For example, 3.3 is rounded up to 4 if the program's coursework is offered in whole credits. If the program's coursework is offered in fractions, the full-time enrollment status need not be rounded. For example, 3.3 would remain 3.3 as full time, and a student taking 3.4 credits in the term would be full time.

² These fractions use weeks of instructional time as defined in *Chapter 1* of this volume, which are not necessarily the same number as the calendar weeks in an academic year.

Disbursing more than half the annual award and the 50% requirement

If the disbursement for the payment period results in more than half of the annual award and occurs after half of the weeks of instructional time of the academic year have passed during the payment period, you can make a disbursement of the full payment for the payment period.

For example, consider a program that must use Formula 3, and that has three terms with 17, 14, and six weeks of instructional time. The program's academic year is defined as 30 weeks of instructional time and 24 semester hours.

Debbie is attending half time for all three terms. Her payments for each payment period are 17/30, 14/30, and 6/30 of her half-time annual award. For the first term, you may disburse 15/30 of her award at the beginning of the term and the final 2/30 only after the 15th week of instructional time in the term. However, if Debbie establishes eligibility in the 16th week of the term, you can make a disbursement of 17/30 of the annual award at that time. Her award for the second and third terms may be disbursed in a single disbursement.

Single disbursement may not exceed 50% of award

[34 CFR 690.63\(f\)](#)

Formula 3: Payments for standard terms

Montgomery College has a semester-based program with a 2-semester academic calendar that comprises 28 weeks of instructional time. The program’s academic year is defined as 24 semester hours and 30 weeks of instructional time. If both semesters are 14 weeks in length, the Pell payment for a full-time student with a Scheduled Award of \$4,550 would be calculated as follows:

$$(14 \text{ weeks}^1 \text{ in term} \times \$4,550) \div 30 \text{ weeks}^1 \text{ in academic year} = \$2,123.33$$

¹These fractions use weeks of instructional time as defined in *Chapter 1* of this volume, which will not necessarily be the same number as the calendar weeks in an academic year.

Formula 3: Payments for nonstandard terms of equal length

Edwards University has a program that consists of four 8-week terms. Edwards University defines the academic year as 40 quarter hours and 32 weeks of instructional time. Because this program does not use standard terms (semesters, trimesters, or quarters), Edwards University must use Formula 3 to calculate Pell disbursements for students in the program. Let’s use the example of a student who attends all four terms for 10 quarter hours each term in the award year, and has a Scheduled Award of \$3,750.

Because the program has nonstandard terms, Edwards University must determine the number of credit-hours required for full-time enrollment in each term, as follows:

$$(8 \text{ weeks}^1 \text{ in term} \times 40 \text{ quarter hours}) \div 32 \text{ weeks}^1 \text{ in academic year} = 10 \text{ quarter hours}$$

A student enrolled for seven hours could be paid as a half-time student ($7/10 = 0.7$, which is less than $3/4$ [0.75] but greater than $1/2$ [0.5]). Because the student in our example will be enrolled on a full-time basis (10 hours each term), the student’s annual award is the same as the Scheduled Award. This is a term-based, credit-hour program, so the payment period is the term.

To determine the student’s payment for each payment period, multiply the annual award by the length of the nonstandard term compared to the length of the academic year:

$$(8 \text{ weeks}^1 \text{ in term} \times \$3,750) \div 32 \text{ weeks}^1 \text{ in academic year} = \$937.50$$

¹These fractions use weeks of instructional time as defined in *Chapter 1* of this volume, which will not necessarily be the same number as the calendar weeks in an academic year.

Formula 3: Payments for nonstandard terms of unequal length

Ryne is enrolled in a semester-hour program at Hendricks University that has a 10-week nonstandard term

between two 12-week nonstandard terms. The terms do not overlap. The academic year for the program is defined as 34 weeks of instructional time and 24 semester hours. Courses are offered in whole credits. Hendricks must use Formula 3 to calculate Pell Grant payments for students in this program. Ryne enrolls for six semester hours in each of the three terms. Because the program has nonstandard terms, Hendricks must determine the number of credit-hours required for full-time enrollment in each term, as follows.

For the first and third terms:

$$(12 \text{ weeks}^1 \text{ in term} \times 24 \text{ semester hours}) \div 34 \text{ weeks}^1 \text{ in academic year} = 8.47 \text{ (round up to 9)}$$

For the second term:

$$(10 \text{ weeks}^1 \text{ in term} \times 24 \text{ semester hours}) \div 34 \text{ weeks}^1 \text{ in academic year} = 7.06 \text{ (round up to 8)}$$

A student must enroll in nine semester hours (rounded up from 8.47) in the first and third terms, and eight semester hours (rounded up from 7.06) in the second term, to be full time. Ryne is enrolled half time in the first and third terms (6 semester hours/9 semester hours = 0.67). He is enrolled three-quarter time in the second term (6 semester hours/8 semester hours = 0.75). The COA does not need to be prorated because the fall through spring terms provide the same number of weeks of instructional time as in the academic year definition. Further, the school has determined the costs for a full-time student for a full academic year.

The half-time payment schedule shows that Ryne is eligible for an annual award of \$2,075. Because this is a term-based credit-hour program, the payment period is the term. To calculate Ryne's payment for the first and third terms, the school uses the fraction 12/34:

$$(12 \text{ weeks}^1 \text{ in term} \times \$2,075) \div 34 \text{ weeks}^1 \text{ in academic year} = \$732.35$$

Ryne's payment for each of the first and third terms will be \$732.35.

Because Ryne's enrollment status for the second term is three-quarter time, the payment for that term is based on a three-quarter-time annual award of \$3,075. To calculate the payment for the second term, the school uses the fraction 10/34:

$$(10 \text{ weeks}^1 \text{ in term} \times \$3,075) \div 34 \text{ weeks}^1 \text{ in academic year} = \$904.41$$

Ryne's payment for the middle term (the second payment period) is \$904.41.

¹These fractions use weeks of instructional time as defined in *Chapter 1* of this volume, which will not necessarily be the same number as the calendar weeks in an academic year.

Pell Formula 4: Clock-Hour and Non-Term Credit-Hour Programs

All clock-hour and non-term credit-hour programs must use Formula 4.

Pell Formula 4

[34 CFR 690.63\(a\)\(4\)](#)

[34 CFR 690.63\(e\)](#)

Enrollment status in clock-hour and non-term credit-hour programs

For clock-hour programs and for non-term credit-hour programs, enrollment status only makes a difference if the student

is attending less than half-time. If that’s the case, only certain components of the COA are used (see the discussion in *Chapter 2*).

The annual award for a student in a clock-hour or non-term credit-hour program is taken from the full-time payment schedule, even if the student is attending less than full time.

Calculating payment amounts in clock-hour and non-term credit-hour programs

Pell Grants must be paid in installments over the course of the academic year or program of study to help meet the student’s cost in each payment period. The payment period determines when Pell funds are disbursed and the exact amount to be disbursed. You must use the rules discussed in *Chapter 1* to determine the payment periods for clock-hour and non-term credit-hour programs.

In non-term programs, the student’s Pell award is not reduced for part-time enrollment unless the student is enrolled less than half time, in which case the student’s COA must be adjusted. However, if a program is less than an academic year in length (in either clock/credit hours or weeks of instructional time), students enrolled in the program won’t receive a full Scheduled Award.

As in the case of the other formulas, you must perform comparable prorations of the award for each payment period in the student’s program. The calculation for the payment period prorates a student’s Scheduled Award based on the number of credit or clock hours in the payment period as they compare to the credit or clock hours in the defined academic year or the number of weeks of instructional time in the payment period as they compare to the weeks of instructional time in the academic year. To determine the payment for a payment period, multiply the student’s Scheduled Award by the lesser of

Number of credit/clock hours in the payment period ÷ Number of credit/clock hours in the program’s academic year

OR

Weeks¹ in the payment period ÷ Weeks¹ in the program’s academic year (at least 30 for credit-hour programs, at least 26 for clock-hour programs)

¹These fractions use weeks of instructional time as defined in *Chapter 1* of this volume, which are not necessarily the same number as the calendar weeks in an academic year.

Enrollment status standards for clock-hour and other non-term programs

For non-term programs, the enrollment minimums are:

- Full-time in credit hours: 24 semester hours, 24 trimester hours, or 36 quarter hours per academic year.
- Less than half-time status is defined as less than half of the workload of the minimum full-time requirement.
- Full-time in clock hours: at least 24 clock-hours per calendar week.

Coursework completion requirement and withdrawal/re-entry in non-term programs

Students in non-term programs must successfully complete a payment period to receive subsequent payments. We discuss the effect of withdrawal and re-entry into a program in *Volume 5*.

Pell Formula 5: Correspondence Study

Formulas 5A and 5B must be used for correspondence study programs. Because only a small number of Pell Grants are made to correspondence students, we explain Formulas 5A and 5B in *Appendix B* of this chapter.

Chance is enrolled at Strasburg Technical Institute (STI) and has a Scheduled Award of \$4,250. His program is 24 quarter hours and 20 weeks of instructional time in length. The academic year for the program is defined as 36 quarter hours and 30 weeks of instructional time. STI has established two payment periods of 12 quarter hours and 10 weeks¹ each for Chance's program. To determine the disbursement for the payment period, STI must multiply the Scheduled Award by the lesser of:

1. the fraction comparing the hours in the payment period to the hours in the academic year (12/36), or
2. the fraction comparing the weeks in the payment period to the weeks in the academic year (10/30).

The two possible calculations would be as follows:

1. (12 quarter hours in payment period x \$4,250) ÷ 36 quarter hours in academic year = \$1,416.66; or
2. (10 weeks¹ in payment period x \$4,250) ÷ 30 weeks¹ in program's academic year = \$1,416.66

Since the two resulting fractions (12/36 and 10/30) are the same, either calculation produces the same result: \$1,416.66. Thus, Chance's payment for the first payment period will be \$1,416.66. Chance can receive this payment when he begins the program. STI can make the payments of \$1,416.66 for the second payment period after STI has determined that Chance has successfully completed 12 quarter hours and 10 weeks of instructional time of the program.

¹The fractions in these examples use weeks of instructional time as defined in *Chapter 1*, which will not necessarily be the same number as the calendar weeks in an academic year.

Payments for clock-hour program (Formula 4)

Chance is enrolled in a program 900 clock-hours and 22 weeks of instructional time in length at Evers Technical Institute (ETI) and is eligible for a Scheduled Award of \$2,650. ETI defines the academic year for the program based on the regulatory minimums: 900 clock-hours and 26 weeks of instructional time. To calculate Chance's payment, ETI calculates the payment for each payment period as follows:

It multiplies the Scheduled Award (\$2,650) by the lesser of:

1. the fraction comparing the hours in the payment period to the hours in the academic year (450/900), or
2. the fraction comparing the weeks in the payment period to the weeks in the academic year (11/26).

The two possible calculations would be as follows:

1. (450 clock hours in the payment period x \$2,650) ÷ 900 clock hours in the academic year = \$ 1,325; or
2. (11 weeks¹ in the payment period x \$2,650) ÷ 26 weeks¹ in the program's academic year = \$ 1,121.15

In this example, the lesser fraction is the one based on weeks. Therefore, Chance's payment for the first payment period will be \$1,121.15. He can get this payment when he begins the program. He can receive his second payment of \$1,121.15 after he successfully completes the 450 clock hours and 11 weeks in the first payment period.

¹The fractions in these examples use weeks of instructional time as defined in *Chapter 1*, which will not necessarily be the same number as the calendar weeks in an academic year.

Summer Terms and Other Crossover Payment Periods

Payment periods don't always fall neatly into one award year or another. A payment period that begins before July 1 and

ends on or after July 1 is called a “crossover payment period.” The formula for calculating the payment for a crossover payment period is the same as that for any other payment period in the award year.

Crossover Payment Periods

[34 CFR 690.64](#)
[GEN-17-06](#)

Crossover payment from the proper award year

For Pell purposes, you must consider a crossover payment period to occur entirely within one award year and calculate the student’s Pell award and disburse Pell funds from the award year selected. If you only have a valid SAR/ISIR from one award year, you must rely on that record and the award year to which the valid SAR/ISIR pertains. Aside from these considerations, the decision about which award year to use is based on the student’s remaining eligibility in the earlier award year. This assessment is made according to your school’s payment period policy, which for crossover Pell payment periods may apply to:

- an individual student;
- all students or a category of students without exception; or
- all students or a category of students with allowance for exceptions in the case of individual students.

Although you may assign a crossover payment period to either of the relevant award years (within the limitations described below), you must make the assignment based on what you determine will be most beneficial to students.

You may assign the Pell Grant award to a different award year than the rest of the student’s Title IV aid. You can make a payment for a crossover payment period out of either award year, if the student has a valid SAR/ISIR for the award year selected. You may assign two consecutive crossover payment periods to the same award year. For example, you could treat summer 2022 and summer 2023 as both being in the 2022-23 award year. You may also source the Pell funds from different award years for different students, as their eligibility allows, depending on their remaining eligibility and financial need.

You may not make a payment which will result in the student receiving more than their Scheduled Award for an award year, unless the student is enrolled at least half time and is eligible for a Year-Round Pell award (see Year-Round Pell and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant section later in this chapter), in which case the student may be eligible to receive up to 150% of their Scheduled Award for the award year.

Term schools: using the formula for summer sessions

If your school offers a summer term in addition to fall through spring terms that qualify for Formula 1 or 2, you will calculate the student’s payment for the summer term using the same formula that you used to calculate payments for the other terms in the award year to which the summer term is assigned. If you use Formula 3 for Pell Grant calculations in any of the terms in an award year, then you must use Formula 3 for *all* terms in that program that occur in that award year, including the fall through spring terms. (Note that if your program is a standard-term program in the fall through spring and does not define full-time enrollment in the summer as at least 12 credit-hours, you must use Formula 3 for Pell calculations for all terms in the award year.) **With regard to enrollment status, your school must apply its definition of full-time status for the summer term consistently for all FSA program purposes.**

COA for summer terms

Costs for summer terms are figured in the same way as for any other payment period; that is, the costs are based on the costs for a full-time student for a full academic year. If your school has fall and spring semesters that comprise an academic year, you can’t add the costs for the summer term to the costs for the fall and spring semesters. The award for

the summer term is still based on the costs for one academic year. However, if the academic year definition includes the summer term, then the costs for the summer term *must* be included in the cost for a full academic year.

If the student was previously enrolled in the award year, you may be able to use the same COA for the summer term that you used for the immediately preceding term that the student attended. However, this isn't possible if the costs are different from the fall through spring, such as a different tuition charge per credit hour, or if you are required to recalculate the COA. See the end of this chapter for information on when recalculations are required. If it's necessary to base the student's COA on the summer term, you must prorate the summer costs to the length of an academic year to establish the cost for a full academic year. See *Chapter 2* on prorating costs in the Pell Grant program.

If the summer session is the first term in the award year for that student (for example, your school is paying a student for the summer 2022 term from the 2022-23 award year), you must establish the student's full-year cost based on the costs for the *summer* term. If the student enrolls in another term in that award year, you may have to recalculate the student's costs for the later term.

Receiving less than the Scheduled Award due to crossover

A student may also receive less than a Scheduled Award in an award year, if the program crosses award years and the student's Pell Grant award in one of the award years is for a portion of the program that is less than a full academic year.

Crossover Pell and withdrawal

For details on how to perform Return of Title IV Funds calculations in a crossover Pell situation, see *Volume 5, Chapter 2* of the *FSA Handbook*.

Summer minisessions

If a term-based school offers a series of minisessions that overlap two award years (by "crossing over" the June 30 end date for one award year), these minisessions may be combined and treated as one term. Schools are not required to combine minisessions. However, if you do not combine the minisessions to create a single term and the minisessions overlap, the program must be considered a non-term program.

When you combine minisessions into a single term (i.e., payment period), the weeks of instructional time in the combined term are the weeks of instructional time from the beginning of the first minisession to the date the last minisession ends. The student's enrollment status for the entire payment period must be calculated based on the total number of credits the student is projected to take for all sessions. You must project the enrollment status for a student on the basis of the credits the student has:

- Pre-registered or registered to take for all sessions;
- Committed to take for all sessions in an academic plan or enrollment contract; or
- Committed to take for all sessions in some other document.

When you combine the minisessions into a single term, a student cannot be paid more than the amount for one payment period for completing any combination of the minisessions. If the minisessions are not combined into a single payment period, you must treat each minisession as a separate nonstandard term and generally must use Formula 3 to calculate Pell Grant payments for the program. If, for each minisession, you define full time as at least 12 credit hours, you may be able to use Formula 1 or 2 if the program otherwise qualifies for one of these formulas.

If a combined minisession term crosses over the June 30 award year end date, the combined term must be treated as a crossover payment period, regardless of what classes students attend. If your program has two summer sessions and only one of the sessions crosses over the award year date boundary and you do not combine the sessions into a larger term, then only the term that actually spans the award year boundary is considered a crossover payment period.

If the minisessions are combined in a single term and a student does not begin attendance in all of the minisessions that they were expected to attend, recalculation of prior disbursements is required based on the resulting changed enrollment status as discussed later in this chapter. Also, if you use Formula 3 for any of the summer minisessions, or any other nonstandard term (e.g., a winter intersession), remember that you must also use it for all other terms in the award year, including fall through spring.

Minisession enrollment status example

Billy is enrolled in a summer session with three-week minisessions that his school, Williams University, has combined into one term. The school uses Formula 1 to calculate Billy’s payment for the combined term, and must define full-time enrollment as at least 12 credit hours, even though full-time enrollment for an individual minisession may be defined as fewer than 12 credit hours. Billy is enrolled for six credits during the combined summer term. Billy’s enrollment status is equal to the proportion of the number of credits for which he is enrolled to the number of credit hours in the school’s definition of full-time enrollment status for the combined term. Therefore, Billy is considered to be enrolled half time for the combined summer term.

Combined minisessions into one term

Ron enrolls part time at Santo University, which defines its academic year as 24 semester hours and 30 weeks of instructional time. In addition to fall and spring semesters, Santo offers three summer minisessions. Each minisession provides four weeks of instructional time. Santo can either combine the minisessions into a single nonstandard term, or treat each session as a separate nonstandard term. The school chooses to combine the sessions into a single term providing 12 weeks of instructional time with full-time enrollment defined as 12 semester hours. If Santo meets the conditions for use of Formula 1 in its fall and spring semesters, it can use Formula 1 to calculate Pell Grant payments for this summer session.



Ron enrolls for three semester hours in each of the minisessions, so he’s enrolled three quarter time (nine hours total in the combined term). His applicable Scheduled Award is \$3,550 and his annual award (from the three-quarter-time payment schedule) is \$2,663. To calculate Ron’s payment, Santo simply divides the annual award by two, the number of terms in the fall through spring: $\$2,663 / 2 = \$1,331.50$.

¹These fractions use weeks of instructional time as defined in *Chapter 1*, which are not necessarily the same number as the calendar weeks in an academic year.

Minisessions treated as nonstandard terms

If Santo didn’t combine these minisessions and defined full-time enrollment for each 4-week minisession as fewer than 12 semester hours, it would have to calculate all Pell payments for the program using Formula 3. Because these are nonstandard terms, Santo would have to determine Ron’s enrollment status for each minisession by prorating the standard for full-time enrollment in a full academic year (24 semester hours):

$$(24 \text{ semester hours} \times 4 \text{ weeks}^1 \text{ in term}) \div 30 \text{ weeks}^1 \text{ in academic year} = 3.2 \text{ semester hours (round up to 4}^2)$$

For each of the 4-week terms, a full-time student must enroll in four semester hours, and based on that standard, the three semester hours that Ron is attending in each minisession count as three-quarter-time enrollment status. Note that Santo would use the Pell COA for a full-time student attending a full academic year. Santo would determine his payment for each minisession (assuming his Scheduled Award remains unchanged across both award years):

$$(4 \text{ weeks}^1 \text{ in term} \times \$2,663) \div 30 \text{ weeks}^1 \text{ in academic year} = \$355.06$$

Ron would receive \$355.06 for each of the minisessions, for a total of \$1,065.18 for the summer. Again, these payments for one or more minisessions that are in the prior award year may need to be reduced if Ron had previously received payments for the fall and spring semesters in the same award year. Also, Santo must use Formula 3 for the fall through spring terms.

¹These fractions use weeks of instructional time as defined in *Chapter 1*, which are not necessarily the same number as the calendar weeks in an academic year.

²Since Santo only offers courses in whole credits

Year-Round Pell and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant

Students may be eligible to receive up to 150% of their Pell Grant or Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Scheduled Award for an award year. Year-Round Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant awards are calculated and disbursed in the same manner as Year-Round Pell Grant awards. This provision is called "Year-Round Pell" or "additional Pell" (in this section we use the term "Year-Round Pell" to cover both Pell Grant and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant awards). Students eligible for Year-Round Pell awards are subject to the normal duration of eligibility rules, sequester reductions (Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant only), and LEU limits.

Year-Round Pell allows students who have already exhausted their Scheduled Award for an award year to continue receiving Pell funds (for example, for a summer trailer term), or to receive Pell funds without prematurely reducing their Pell eligibility for the remainder of the award year (for example, for a summer header term). A student’s Year-Round Pell eligibility is certified by the “Additional Eligibility Indicator” or AEI, in COD.

To be eligible to receive Pell/Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant funds in excess of 100% of their Scheduled Award during a single award year, students must be enrolled at least half time. With Year-Round Pell, students do not receive more Pell/Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant funds in each payment period. They receive the same amount as is normally calculated for a payment period based on their enrollment status, COA, and EFC, but students who are enrolled at least half time and who are otherwise eligible for Pell Grants or Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants may receive Pell or Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant funds for an award year up to 150% of their calculated Scheduled Award. As explained in the Year-Round Pell semester example later in this section, a student may receive funds from the Pell/Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Scheduled Award and from the Year-Round award in the same payment period.

For example, Bob has a Pell Grant Scheduled Award of \$5,000 for 2022-23. He attends fall and spring semesters, during which he receives awards of \$2,500 for each semester. He begins attendance in the summer 2023 term (which his school treats as a trailer) as a half-time student. Without Year-Round Pell his Pell eligibility would be exhausted, but the Year-Round Pell provision allows him to receive his calculated award of up to \$2,500 in additional Pell funds for the summer term.

Year-Round Pell and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant

HEA Section 401(c)
[GEN-17-06](#)

Year-Round Pell clock-hour example

Eugene enrolls in Springfield University for an 1125 clock-hour program (over 32.5 weeks, see graphic below). His program occurs entirely within the 2022-23 award year, and has an Academic Year of 900 clock hours and 26 weeks of instructional time. Eugene has a Scheduled Award of \$5,550.

Springfield awards Eugene \$2,775 in Pell after he completes each of the first two payment periods of 450 clock hours and 13 weeks of instructional time. For the remaining 225 hours and 6.5 weeks of instructional time in the program, Springfield calculates that Eugene would be eligible to receive \$1,387.50 in Pell, if his Scheduled Award would allow it. Without Year-Round Pell, Eugene would have no remaining Pell Grant eligibility, as he has already received his Scheduled Award of \$5,550 for 2022-23, but with Year-Round Pell, if he is enrolled at least half time and remains in all other ways Pell-eligible, Eugene is eligible to receive up to an additional 50% of his \$5,550 Scheduled Award, for a maximum total of \$8,325.

Adding \$1,387.50 to the \$5,550 Eugene has already received, Springfield sees that he will be awarded a total of \$6,937.50 for 2022-23, which is within his \$8,325 Year-Round Pell maximum. Note that Springfield does **not** increase his final award for the award year to match his Year-Round Pell maximum; Eugene’s awards for each term are calculated according to the Pell rules described in this chapter.

450 hours/13 weeks \$2,775	450 hours/13 weeks \$2,775	225 hours/6.5 weeks \$1,387.50
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Year-Round Pell semester example

Gaston attends Green State University. His enrollment begins in the summer, which Green treats as a header to the 2022-2023 award year. Based on an EFC of 550 and a COA of \$10,590, Gaston has a Scheduled Award of \$6,345 for 2022-2023. Gaston is enrolled three-quarter-time in the summer term. His three-quarter-time summer award is \$2,379.50 (37.5019% of his Scheduled Award).

After the summer term, Gaston continues in the fall and is now enrolled full time in Green’s fall semester. His fall Pell award is \$3,172.50 (Green disburses 50% of a Scheduled Award for the fall semester). Gaston has now received 87.5019% (\$5,552) of his Scheduled Award of \$6,345, leaving 12.4980% (\$793) in remaining eligibility.

Continuing with his program in the spring semester, Gaston again enrolls full time. Under Pell rules, Gaston has only 12.4980% (\$793) in remaining eligibility from his Scheduled Award. However, since he is enrolled at least half time and meets all of the other standard Pell eligibility criteria, Gaston is eligible for a Year-Round Pell award amount of up to 50% of his Scheduled Award. This means that he could receive a total of up to \$9,517.50 (150% of his Scheduled Award amount of \$6,345) for the award year. However, the disbursement for each term must be calculated per the Pell rules described in this chapter, so the actual amount Gaston receives may be less than this maximum.

Green normally awards a student 50% of their annual award for a standard spring semester, and the award amount for the term under Year-Round Pell is calculated by the same method as for a student’s Scheduled Award, so Gaston's spring semester award would be \$3,172.50. Adding this amount to the \$5,552 Gaston has already received for the award year totals \$8,724.50, which is less than 150% of Gaston's Scheduled Award for 2022-2023 (specifically, this is 137.5019% of his Scheduled Award). Therefore, Green can award the spring Pell award of \$3,172.50 as calculated.¹

Summer 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023
(assigned to 2022-2023) Three-quarter time Pell award: \$2,379.50	Full-time Pell Award: \$3,172.50 (50% of the Scheduled Award)	Full-time Pell Award: \$3,172.50 (50% of the

(37.5019% of the Scheduled Award)	Total % of Scheduled Award received: 87.5019%	Scheduled Award ² Total % of Scheduled Award received: 137.5019%
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¹Note that although Gaston would be eligible to receive up to \$9,517.50 for the award year under the Year-Round Pell provision, Green does not adjust his spring term Pell award upwards to meet this maximum—the school must calculate and award Gaston’s spring Pell as normal for the term.

²The Year-Round Pell Grant award cannot exceed 50% of a student's Scheduled Award. In this example, the 50% (the \$3,172.50 spring term disbursement) is made up of 12.4980% (\$793) remaining from his Scheduled Award and 37.5020% (\$2,379.50) from the Year-Round Pell eligibility. This leaves Gaston with access to 12.4980% (\$793) in remaining Pell eligibility for the award year (for example, if he decides to attend the summer 2023 term). If Gaston had used up 100% of his Pell Grant Scheduled Award for Summer 2022 and Fall 2022, the entire Spring 2023 award amount would be from the Year-Round Pell Grant award. Schools may combine the amounts from the Scheduled Award and Year-Round Pell Grant awards and must submit as one amount for reporting to COD.

Calculating and Awarding Remaining Eligibility

The Pell payment for a transfer student is calculated in the same way as for any new student. That is, you must calculate payments for each payment period following the rules given in this chapter. However, a transfer student’s remaining Pell eligibility at your school is reduced if the student received Pell funds for the same award year at any prior schools. You can identify the student’s prior Pell disbursements when you review their Financial Aid History in NSLDS and COD.

Calculating remaining eligibility

Once you’ve identified the Pell amounts that a transfer student has already received for the award year, you must calculate the percentage of the Scheduled Award that has been used. This percentage is calculated by dividing the amount disbursed at the previous school by the student’s Scheduled Award at that school (COD calculates this and you can refer to COD to see what the percentage of remaining eligibility will be for a student).

Pell disbursed at prior school ÷ Scheduled Award at prior school = % of Scheduled Award used

Then subtract this percentage from 100% (or 150%, if the student is enrolled and eligible for a Year-Round award). The result is the maximum percentage of the Scheduled Award that the student may receive at your school. Note that a transfer student receives the same payments as any other student until the limit (up to 150% of a Scheduled Award; see the Year-Round Pell and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant section earlier in this chapter) is reached. **Give the student the full amount for each payment period, rather than trying to ration the remaining amount by splitting it evenly across the remaining terms.**

A transfer student must repay any amount received in an award year that exceeds their Scheduled Award (or in excess of 150% of their Scheduled Award, if enrolled and eligible for Year-Round Pell), unless the school that disbursed the award was at fault by failure to follow the administrative requirements in [34 CFR 668](#).

Payment period for a transfer student at a non-term school

When a student transfers into a non-term credit-hour or clock-hour program at a new school, that student is starting a new payment period. For non-term programs, you must use the payment period rules described in *Chapter 1* to determine the payment periods for the remainder of the student’s program.

However, for a transfer student, the length of the program is the number of clock or credit-hours and the number of weeks of instructional time that the student will be required to complete in the new program. If the remaining clock or credit hours or weeks of instructional time are half an academic year or less, then the remaining hours and weeks of

instructional time constitute one payment period.

Transfer students and remaining eligibility

Consider a student who is eligible for Pell Grant funds and who transfers from School A to School B within the same award year. Before paying any Pell funds to the student, School B must determine the percentage of eligibility remaining for the student. After transferring, a student’s remaining eligibility for a Scheduled Award during an award year is equal to the percentage of the student’s Scheduled Award that remains unused, multiplied by the student’s Scheduled Award at the new school.

School B may pay the student a Pell Grant only for that portion of an academic year in which the student is enrolled and in attendance at School B. The grant must be adjusted, as necessary, to ensure that the funds received by the student for the award year do not exceed the student’s Scheduled Award for that award year or the student’s maximum Lifetime Eligibility Used.

The award for each payment period is calculated using the (full) Scheduled Award. The student receives a full award until the student has received 100% of the student’s remaining eligibility for a Scheduled Award (or 150%, if the student is enrolled at least half time and otherwise eligible for a Year-Round Pell award) or 600% LEU. This avoids a school having to ration the remaining amount by splitting it evenly across the remaining terms.

To calculate a transfer student’s remaining eligibility for a Scheduled Award, School B must first determine what percentage of the Scheduled Award the student used at School A. Check COD for the most up to date information on what aid has been disbursed to the student at all schools.

The remainder is the unused percentage of the student’s Scheduled Award— the percentage the student may receive at School B. (Use percentages rather than dollars because a transfer student may have different Scheduled Awards at the two schools; using percentages rather than dollars adjusts for this possible difference.) School B then multiplies the percent of eligibility remaining by the Scheduled Award at School B. The result is the maximum amount of Federal Pell Grant funds the student may receive at School B during the balance of the award year.

Pell Grant eligibility for transfer students

[34 CFR 690.65](#)
[DCL GEN-01-09](#)

Transfer Student Remaining Eligibility Example

On August 1, 2022, Ernie enrolls at Maddux Hair Academy. After completing 400 of the 900 clock-hours in his program, he withdraws from school. On February 1, 2023, Ernie enrolls at Bryant Esthetics Institute (BEI) as a transfer student and is awarded 400 clock hours of transfer credit toward BEI’s 1,000 clock-hour program (the program’s defined academic year is 900 clock hours and 30 weeks of instructional time). Ernie’s program length at BEI is 600 clock-hours and 20 weeks of instructional time.

The FAA at BEI examines Ernie’s 2022-2023 ISIR and finds the following entry:

%Sch. Used: 50.0

As Of: 01/28/2022

Pell Verification

EFC: 0

Based on Ernie's EFC and COA, his Scheduled Award is \$4,850. The FAA subtracts the 50% of Ernie's Scheduled Award previously used from 100%, which results in a remaining unused percentage of 50%. Therefore, Ernie is eligible to receive 50% of his scheduled Pell award of \$4,850 during the balance of the award year. (Note that this example assumes Ernie is not eligible for a Year-Round Pell. If eligible for Year-Round Pell, he could receive up to 150% of his Scheduled Award, in total. For more details, see the Year-Round Pell and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant section earlier in this chapter.)

The FAA uses the 600 hours and 20 weeks of instructional time remaining in Ernie's program to establish the appropriate two payment periods of 300 clock-hours and 10 weeks of instructional time each (as determined in accordance with [34 CFR 668.4\(b\)](#)). The aid administrator multiplies Ernie's Scheduled Award by the remaining unused percentage and determines that Ernie may receive as much as \$2,425 ($0.50 \times \$4,850 = \$2,425$) if he remains enrolled at BEI for the balance of the award year.

During the first payment period, Ernie receives \$1,617 in Pell funds:

$(300 \text{ hours in payment period} \times \$4,850) \div 900 \text{ hours in academic year} = \$1,617$

However, in the second payment period, Ernie can only receive funds until his total Pell at BEI reaches \$2,425 (and his total for the award year reaches his Scheduled Award amount of \$4,850). Therefore, for the second payment period at BEI, Ernie can only receive \$808 ($\$2,425 - \$1,617 = \808).

Note that if Ernie received a Direct Loan at Maddux and now wishes to borrow a Direct Loan at BEI, the method for determining the remaining eligibility for Direct Loan funds in transfer student situations is very different from the method of determining remaining Pell Grant eligibility. Refer to *Chapter 5* of this volume for a complete discussion of this topic.

Why percentages are used

The reason for using percentages when calculating remaining eligibility is that a student may have different Scheduled Awards at different schools/programs, and using percentages ensures that a student does not receive more than 100% (or 150%, if enrolled and eligible for Year-Round Pell) of the student's Scheduled Award. For example, the COAs at the two schools may be different. The percentages are also used to compare the portions of a student's total eligibility that have been used at both schools. (If the student's Scheduled Award is the same at both schools, the financial aid administrator can find the amount of the student's remaining eligibility simply by subtracting the amount received at the first school from the Scheduled Award.)

Avoiding Pell Grant overawards

A Pell Grant overaward can be caused by a school making an error in reading the Pell payment schedule. For example, the school may use the wrong EFC or COA, or may not use the correct payment schedule based on the student's enrollment status (e.g., using the full-time schedule to determine the award for a student who is enrolled on a half-time basis, or who dropped to less than full time enrollment status before beginning attendance in all classes).

A Pell Grant overaward can also result if the student enters incorrect data on the FAFSA and the EFC derived from the incorrect data is lower than it should be (for more detail about the FAFSA and EFC data, see the *Application and Verification Guide*). A Pell overaward also exists if a student scheduled to receive a Pell Grant fails to begin classes or is otherwise determined to be ineligible for FSA funds (for example, having exceeded the Pell LEU).

Finally, an overaward exists whenever a student is scheduled to receive or is receiving a Pell Grant for attendance at two or more schools concurrently. All of these Pell Grant overawards must be corrected. For more detail on the requirements and methods of resolving overawards, see *Volume 4, Chapter 3*.

This is not an exclusive list of all of the ways in which a Pell Grant may be overawarded. In addition to avoiding these mistakes, schools should also be sure to submit timely Pell actual disbursement records to COD, according to the Annual Deadline Date Notice as published in the Knowledge Center.

[34 CFR 690.79](#)

NSLDS financial aid history and transfer monitoring

Before disbursing FSA funds to a transfer student, you must obtain a financial aid history for the student and you must inform NSLDS about the transfer student so that you can receive updates through the Transfer Student Monitoring Process. The financial aid history will not only identify Pell Grant disbursements that the student received at other schools, but also tell you if the student is ineligible for any FSA aid due to default or overpayment, if the student has reached or exceeded the annual or aggregate loan limits, or if the student has reached the Pell LEU limit. There are several ways for you to get a student's financial aid history from NSLDS. You can:

- Use the NSLDS Financial Aid History section of the ISIR;
- Log on to the NSLDS Professional Access website and access the data online for a student;
- For multiple students, use the FAT 001 Web report, which you submit from the Reports tab on the NSLDS site (you retrieve the results through SAIG); or
- Send a batch Transfer Student Monitoring/Financial Aid History (TSM/FAH) Inform file to request aid history data for several students, which will be returned in either extract or report format through SAIG. The TSM/FAH processes and batch file layouts are posted in the [Knowledge Center Library](#) in the "Publications by Resource Type" section under "NSLDS User Resources."

Pell Grant and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU)

Per the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012, a student's maximum duration of Pell eligibility is six Scheduled Awards, as measured by the percentage of "Lifetime Eligibility Used" (LEU) field in COD (one Scheduled Award equals 100% LEU). A separate maximum of 600% LEU also applies to Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant awards. A student is ineligible to receive further Pell or Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant funds if they have reached or exceeded the 600% limit for the applicable program (i.e., Pell or Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant). For Pell, this limitation is to the beginning of the program (1973-74).

Pell and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants LEU

Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012 HEA Section 401(c)

[DCL GEN-12-01](#)

[DCL GEN-13-14](#)

[Electronic Announcement April 18, 2014](#)

[2022-2023 ISIR Guide \(Updated Oct. 4, 2021\)](#)

The LEU limits for Pell Grants and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants are separate and are tracked independently. For example, a student might have 400% Pell LEU and 300% Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant LEU and still be potentially eligible for either program, or 600% Pell LEU and 400% Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant LEU and be potentially eligible for only an Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant award. Rounding rules do not apply if the amount disbursed would place the student's LEU over 600%.

The Department provides weekly Pell LEU reports through the SAIG Mailbox under Message Class PGLEXXOP (where XX =

the year) for your Pell-eligible students (and students who listed your school code on their FAFSA) who have a Pell LEU greater than or equal to 450%. The COD website will show the current Pell LEU level for all aid recipients (updated as transactions are processed). COD also provides the LEU for the Pell Multiple Reporting Record (MRR), Pell Reconciliation Report, and Pell Year-to-Date file.

Students will fall into one of the following categories, which will have various effects:

- **Student not on report** (Code “N” on the student’s ISIR under Lifetime Limit Flag) Students in this category have LEU of less than 400%. These students’ Pell awards will be awarded as normal, since even if they receive a full Scheduled Award, they will not go over the 600% LEU maximum.
- **LEU greater than 400% but less than or equal to 500%** (Code “H” on the student’s ISIR under Lifetime Limit Flag) Students in this category will likely have Scheduled Award eligibility for 2022-23. However, a student’s 2022-23 Pell eligibility may be reduced if, for example, another Pell disbursement is reported after a report has been created, putting the student’s 2022-23 baseline LEU over 500%.
- **LEU greater than 500% but less than 600%** (Code “C” on the student’s ISIR under Lifetime Limit Flag) These students will not have full Pell eligibility for 2022-23, since their baseline LEU has less than 100% remaining.
- **LEU 600% or higher** (Code “E” on the student’s ISIR under Lifetime Limit Flag) These students will have no Pell eligibility remaining, as they have already exceeded the maximum LEU amount.

To aid in identifying students who are approaching their LEU limits, COD returns warning code 177 or 178 when a student’s Pell LEU is near or exceeds 600%. COD has a hard reject (Edit 201) for both Pell and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant actual disbursements with a Pell or Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant LEU greater than 600%. Also, you will be able to see this data in the Common Record Response, and LEU is also visible in the NSLDS system. However, the Central Processing System (CPS) reports only the Pell Grant LEU limit flags and percentages on SARs and ISIRs. COD calculates a student’s LEU to three decimal places, and you may round awards as described earlier in this chapter under “Ground rules for Pell Grants.” However, you may not round up if that would cause the student to exceed either their Scheduled Award or 600% LEU.

To calculate an award for a student whose LEU level will reduce the student’s eligibility (i.e., an LEU greater than 400% but less than 600%), you must first check the most current LEU level in COD. Subtract the LEU percentage from 600%, then multiply the student’s Scheduled Award by the resulting percentage. For example, Jack has 534% LEU in COD. His school subtracts 534% from 600%, leaving him with 66% of a Scheduled Award remaining. His Scheduled Award is \$5,650, so his school multiplies \$5,650 by 0.66, which equals \$3,729. This amount is then disbursed per the normal Pell formula and payment period rules.

For students whose eligibility is less than a full Scheduled Award, you award the student a Pell Grant or Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant as you would for a transfer student who received Pell at another school during the same award year. That is, you determine the student’s remaining Pell or Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant eligibility, as a percentage of LEU, and then award each payment until that eligibility is used (see the discussion under “Transfer students and remaining eligibility” earlier in this chapter).

Restoring Pell eligibility for students who attended closed schools

There is a limited circumstance in which Pell eligibility may be restored to certain students who attended schools which are now closed. Note that Total Eligibility Used (TEU) is capped at 100% (or 150% in the case of Year-Round Pell) and is the maximum Pell a student may receive during a single Award Year, whereas LEU is the student’s sum total of all Pell eligibility used, across all award years. A closed school may be considered for the Pell restoration process if all of the following are true:

- The school’s main location is officially closed with the Department;
- The school closed after 1994 (i.e., 1995 to present);
- All final disbursements have been submitted to the COD system and accepted by the Department;
- All final enrollment data has been submitted to NSLDS so that the Department may determine if students are eligible for restoration; and
- The school has completed the close-out process with the Department.

A student may be eligible for Pell eligibility restoration if all of the following are true:

- The student received a Pell Grant disbursement at an eligible closed school;
- The student did not complete their program at the closed school; AND
- The student had a valid enrollment status at the closed school within two years of the school's closure.

Students who are potentially eligible for additional Pell because some or all of their Pell eligibility has been restored are sent a targeted email. Schools are notified of Pell eligibility restorations for students associated with their school through a variety of sources, including:

- COD Warning Edit #221;
- Targeted email with instructions to download a list of affected students from the COD web;
- Updated LEU within response file; and
- Details of the LEU adjustment(s) display on the Pell LEU History screen.

COD sends the updated LEU to NSLDS. For more detail on how this is handled in COD, please refer to the [April 3, 2017 Electronic Announcement](#) and the attachment to the [October 4, 2017 Electronic Announcement](#).

The Department continues to update LEU data for eligible students who attended closed schools. You may receive Pell POP notifications for such students and should review these reports carefully. The COD system will have the most current Pell LEU data, and you should look for Pell Restoration targeted emails, and review the weekly Pell LEU reports, especially for Pell recipients who have a Pell LEU of 450% or higher. For more details, see the following Electronic Announcements: [December 21, 2016](#), [April 3, 2017](#), and [October 4, 2017](#).

Changes in LEU

A student's LEU changes whenever they receive a Pell or Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant disbursement (up or down), and may change any time a student's Scheduled Award is adjusted. It may also change through an LEU adjustment made based on an LEU Dispute, Closed School Restoration, or other adjustment type deemed necessary by the Department.

A student's Pell or Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant LEU can limit the student's Pell or Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant eligibility for an award year. For example, since the maximum LEU is 600%, if a student's Pell or Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant award originally was calculated based on an LEU of 550%, then that student's award would be limited to 50% of the Scheduled Award. A change to a disbursement in the current or previous award year may alter a student's LEU. For details on LEU limitations, see the Pell Grant and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Lifetime Eligibility Used guidance earlier in this chapter.

When a school becomes aware that a student's LEU has been adjusted (as a result of being notified by the student, or by the Department through a pushed ISIR or a warning edit in COD, or through LEU Dispute communication), it should determine whether the adjustment affects the student's eligibility for a Pell Grant or Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant in the current or most recently completed award year.

If the student becomes eligible for additional Pell or Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant funds as a result of a change to the student's LEU, the school must make a correction to the student's award and make any disbursements of Pell or Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant funds for which the student is now eligible and that the school is permitted to make under the late and retroactive disbursement requirements (for more detail on disbursement requirements and timing, see *Volume 4, Chapter 2*). Note that, as with any retroactive or late disbursement of Pell Grant funds, the school should base its calculation of such disbursements on only the classes that the student completed for the earlier period.

NSLDS Reporting requirements

For details on NSLDS reporting requirements for Pell, including reporting of additional data, reporting at the academic program level, and more frequent reporting, see DCLs [GEN-14-07](#) and [GEN-14-17](#) and the [February 11, 2015 Electronic Announcement](#).

Declining and/or returning Pell funds

A student may decline or return all or part of a disbursement of Pell Grant funds that they are otherwise eligible to receive or have received. However, returns may only be made in the same award year as the funds were received, and you are

not required to comply with a student’s request to decline a Pell Grant disbursement that has already been applied to the student’s account for institutional charges. This should be a rare action on the part of students and need not be advertised as a possibility by your school. For more detail on the requirements of declining or returning Pell funds, see [DCL GEN-12-18](#).

Pell Grant LEU Disputes

A school or student may dispute the accuracy of a student’s Pell Grant data which resulted in the student’s LEU percentage in COD. It is the responsibility of the student’s current school to coordinate the resolution of the dispute. You may create, view, and edit Pell LEU disputes (including uploading documentation) using the COD Web Portal. For more detail, see the Electronic Announcements posted [June 27, 2013](#) and [April 18, 2014](#).

Pell Recalculations

Initial calculation

An initial calculation is the first calculation that is made on or after the date the school has received a Department-produced EFC (this may be an EFC from a SAR/ISIR, FAA Access, or FAFSA.gov) such as the student’s initial SAR or ISIR with an official EFC, and that uses the enrollment status at the time of the initial calculation. If you’ve estimated the student’s eligibility before receiving a SAR or ISIR for the student, you must confirm prior estimated eligibility or determine the student’s eligibility at the time the SAR or ISIR is received.

You should document the date you initially calculate a student’s Pell Grant. The earliest date is the date of receipt of a Department-produced EFC, such as on a SAR or ISIR (assuming you have a documented or projected enrollment status for the student). If you fail to document the date of the initial calculation, you must use the later of:

1. The date the SAR or ISIR is first received and the student’s enrollment status as of that date; or
2. The date the student enrolls.

Your school is considered to have received the ISIR on the date it was processed. This date is labeled “Processed Date” on the ISIR. In the case of a SAR, your school is considered to have received it on the date processed unless you document a later date. The processing date on a SAR is the date above the EFC and, on a SAR Acknowledgment, the “Transaction Processed Date.”

Pell recalculations

[34 CFR 690.80](#)

Change in the EFC

If the student’s EFC changes due to corrections, updates, or an adjustment, and the EFC change would change the amount of the Pell award, you must recalculate the Pell award for the entire award year. If, as a result of the recalculation, the student has received more than their award amount, then the student has received an overpayment. In some cases, you may be able to adjust an award by reducing or canceling later payments to the student (see *Volume 4, Chapter 3* for more information).

A student selected for verification can be paid based on the corrected output document you receive during the “verification extension” (120 days after the student’s last day of enrollment, or the deadline date established by a Federal Register notice, whichever is earlier). For example, if you receive a reprocessed ISIR reflecting the results of the student’s verification during the extension period and the ISIR has a lower EFC than the previous ISIR (increasing the student’s eligibility), you calculate the student’s Pell Grant based on the valid ISIR.

SAR/ISIR with different EFC

If you receive a SAR or ISIR with an EFC different from the one you used for the payment calculation, you must first decide which document is valid. If the new information is the correct information, the new SAR or ISIR is the valid record. In most cases, you must recalculate the student's Pell award for the entire award year based on the new EFC. For more information on SARs, ISIRs, and EFC, see the *Application and Verification Guide*.

Change in enrollment status from one academic term to another

In a term program that uses credit hours, you must calculate a student's payment for each term based on the enrollment status for that term. If a student attended full time for the first term and then enrolled half time in the second term, you must use the half-time enrollment status to calculate the student's payment for the second term.

Change in enrollment status within a payment period before a student begins attendance in all classes

You must report changes to a student's enrollment status to NSLDS in a timely manner. Any change requiring a recalculation of an award may also require an update to the student's enrollment status. If the student doesn't begin attendance in all classes for a payment period, resulting in a change in the student's enrollment status, you **must** recalculate the student's award for that payment period based on the lower enrollment status. A student is considered to have begun attendance in all classes if the student attends at least one day of each class whose credits are counted for purposes of determining the student's enrollment status for Pell Grant eligibility. Note that clock-hour and non-term programs are always based on full-time enrollment status for Pell.

Your school must have a procedure in place to know whether a student has begun attendance in all classes for purposes of the Pell Grant Program. The Department does not dictate the method a school uses to document that a student has begun attendance. However, a student is considered not to have begun attendance in any class in which the school is unable to document that attendance.

If you recalculate a Pell award because the student's enrollment status has changed, you must also take into account any changes in the student's costs at that time. For example, if a student enrolls full time for the first semester and then drops to less than half time during that semester, the student's costs will change, because only certain cost components are allowed for less-than-half-time students. However, the COA components for a less-than-half-time student must still be based on the costs for a full-time student for a full academic year when calculating the student's less-than-half-time award.

Enrollment change recalculation example

Sammy registers for a full-time course load (15 credit hours), and Danbury College makes an initial disbursement on that basis 10 days before the first term starts. When the term starts, Sammy only begins attendance in three classes (nine credit-hours). Danbury must recalculate Sammy's Pell award based on the lower enrollment status. Any difference between the amount Sammy received and his new recalculated award is an overpayment. See *Volume 4, Chapter 3* for more detail on overpayments.

Change in enrollment status within a payment period after a student has begun attendance in all classes

The regulations don't require recalculation of Pell Grant awards based on changes in enrollment status during a payment period **after the student has begun attendance in all of their classes**. However, your school **may** have a policy of recalculating awards in this situation. If you establish such a policy, it must take into account any changes in the student's COA and must be applied consistently to all students in a program. If your school chooses to recalculate for a student whose enrollment status increases from half-time to full-time, it must also recalculate for a student whose enrollment status decreases. If your school establishes a policy of recalculating Pell Grant awards based on changes in enrollment status that occur during a payment period after a student has begun attendance in all classes for the payment period, this policy must be documented in writing.

Your school's policy may set a date after which Pell Grants will not be recalculated for enrollment status changes during a payment period. This date is sometimes referred to as the "Pell recalculation date" or "PRD." If a school establishes such a policy, it must apply the policy regardless of whether there is compressed coursework. For example, you could establish a policy that you will recalculate Pell awards only for enrollment changes that occur up to the "add/drop" date of a term. If you establish a policy that Pell Grants will not be recalculated after a certain date, the policy must be applied in all cases, even when there is compressed coursework.

Note that a school may establish more than one PRD within the same payment period. For example, if a term is divided into two or more modules, a school could establish a PRD within each module. However, in this case only one PRD will apply to a student, and that will be the PRD for the latest class or module in which the student begins attendance. Once the school determines which PRD applies to the student, the school must go back to the beginning of the term and review which courses the student dropped, added or completed up until the student's PRD to calculate the student's Pell Grant enrollment status. This is illustrated by the example below.

Multiple PRD Example

A school uses multiple Pell recalculation dates within a payment period and must recalculate Pell up to the Pell recalculation date for the last class or module in which the student begins attendance. The fall semester is divided into two modules. The school establishes one PRD in each module, and a third PRD for the full semester:

- September 7 for Module 1
- September 21 for the full semester
- November 1 for Module 2

As of the September 21 PRD, a student had begun attendance in four classes (12 credit hours) for the full semester.

On October 3, the student drops two classes (6 credit hours). On October 20, the student enrolls and begins attendance in a 3-credit-hour class in Module 2. As of the November 1 PRD for Module 2, the student is enrolled for and has begun attendance in nine credit hours.

In this example, the November 1 PRD applies to the student, so the student's final Pell Grant enrollment status is three quarter time. If the student had not enrolled and begun attendance in the class in Module 2, the September 21 PRD would apply, and the student's final Pell Grant enrollment status would be full time.

If your school has a policy of recalculating Pell Grant awards for a student whose projected enrollment status has changed as of your established PRD (assuming that the student began attendance in all classes), and if the initial calculation of the student's Pell Grant occurred **before** the recalculation date, the recalculation is based on the student's new enrollment status as of the recalculation date.

In some cases, a student may not be enrolled in any classes as of a school's PRD, but the student enrolls later during the payment period (for example, in the second module of a term). Since there is no Pell Grant enrollment status of "zero," in this circumstance the student remains Pell-eligible based on the initial Pell Grant calculation (assuming that the student began attendance in all classes on which the enrollment status for the initial calculation was based), and the recalculation is based on the student's enrollment status at the time they begin enrollment later in the term.

The initial calculation of a student's Pell Grant may in some cases occur **after** a school's PRD for a term, including a term with compressed coursework. In this circumstance, you must use the student's effective enrollment status on the date of the initial calculation, and there is no recalculation of the student's Pell Grant for the term due to a subsequent change in enrollment status, assuming the student began attendance in each class.

Examples 1 and 2 below illustrate the principles described above.

If the student's payment for the term is being disbursed in a subsequent payment period, you may pay the student only for the coursework completed in the term (including earned Fs).

In the case of programs offered with compressed coursework or modules within the terms, your school may adopt a policy of setting the PRD based on the add/drop date of the last class in which the student is enrolled, or is expected to enroll, for the term. In this circumstance, your school must take into account all adjustments to the enrollment status, both increases and decreases, up to the add/drop date of the student's last class.

If you don't establish a policy of recalculating based on changes in enrollment status that occur during a payment period, a student who begins attendance in all classes would be paid based on the initial calculation, even if their enrollment status changes before the disbursement is made. If the student withdraws from all classes (or doesn't begin attending any classes), you must follow the procedures discussed in *Volume 5*.

Enrollment change within payment period examples

Example 1

Jonathan registers for a full-time course load at Coulton College, and Coulton initially calculates a full-time award for him. He begins attending all of his classes but subsequently drops to half-time status. Coulton does not recalculate Pell Grant awards based on enrollment status changes during a payment period, so Jonathan may still be paid based on full-time enrollment, as long as he's otherwise eligible for payment. However, if Coulton did not receive Jonathan's first processed valid SAR or ISIR with an official EFC until after he dropped to half-time enrollment, the Pell initial calculation would be based on his enrollment status at the time the output document was received (i.e., half-time status). If Coulton had a policy of recalculating Pell Grant awards if a student's enrollment status for a payment period has changed as of a specified recalculation date, and if Jonathan had dropped to half-time status as of that date, Coulton would recalculate Jonathan's award based on half-time enrollment.

Example 2

Rachel registers as a full-time student at Morton College, and the school initially calculates a full-time Pell Grant award for the fall and spring semesters. Each semester is divided into two 8-week modules that are combined and treated as a single 16-week standard term. Rachel begins attendance in all classes in the fall.

In the spring semester, Rachel is not enrolled in any classes during the first 8-week module, nor is she enrolled in any classes that span the entire 16-week semester. However, she is enrolled in two 3-credit courses during the second 8-week module.

Morton College's Pell Grant recalculation date for the spring semester is during the first 8-week module. Although Rachel is not enrolled in any classes as of the recalculation date, her enrollment during the second module of the semester allows her to be paid up to her original full-time enrollment status as determined by the initial Pell Grant calculation. However, because Rachel is enrolled for only six hours in the second module, the school pays her as a half-time student. No further adjustments to Rachel's award will be made if there are subsequent changes to her enrollment status during the term.

Change in COA

When a student's COA changes during the award year, and their enrollment status remains the same, you may (but are not required to) establish a policy under which you recalculate the student's Pell Grant award. If you choose to establish a policy under which you recalculate Pell for changes in costs, you must consistently apply that recalculation policy to all students in the program.

Tuition and fee charges and recalculation

If your school recalculates a student's Pell Grant due to a change in enrollment status, but continues to charge tuition and fees for credit hours that are no longer included in the student's enrollment status for Pell Grant purposes, this does not affect the requirement to recalculate the student's Pell Grant award.

For example, Jayson enrolls as a full-time student at Wilson University with 12 credits, but never starts attendance in a 3-credit class that starts after the school's "add/ drop" date. Jayson's award must be recalculated as three-quarter-time even though the school charges tuition for any classes dropped after the "add/ drop" date, and therefore continues to charge Jayson for 12 credits.

Recalculation of Pell Grant awards for students who graduate early from a clock-hour program

Under the regulations that govern the treatment of Title IV funds when a student withdraws, a student who completes all the requirements for graduation from a program before completing the days or hours that they were scheduled to

complete is not considered to have withdrawn, and no return of Title IV funds calculation is required (see *Volume 5* for more detail). However, a school may be required to return a portion of the Pell Grant funds that were awarded to a student who successfully completes the requirements for graduation from a clock-hour program before completing the number of clock hours that they were scheduled to complete. Note that successfully completed clock hours may include a limited number of clock hours for which the student was granted an excused absence if your school has an excused absence policy that meets the requirements described in [34 CFR 668.4\(e\)](#). For more information, see the discussion of "Excused absences in clock-hour programs" in *Chapter 1* of this volume.

A student's eligibility to receive Title IV aid for a clock-hour program is based, in part, on the total number of clock hours in the program. If a school allows a student to graduate from a clock-hour program without completing all of the originally established hours for the program, the school has effectively shortened the program length and reduced a student's Title IV aid eligibility for the program. In this circumstance, the school must recalculate the student's Pell Grant award based on the number of hours the student actually completed, and after this recalculation, the school must return to the Department any difference between the recalculated award amount and the Pell Grant amount that the student originally received. (For a student who received a Direct Loan, the school must also prorate the student's annual loan limit in this situation, or, if the loan limit was originally subject to proration, recalculate the original prorated loan limit. See *Chapter 5* of this volume for more information.)

As an example, consider a student who enrolls in a 900 clock-hour program, with the academic year defined as 900 clock hours and 26 weeks of instructional time. The school assumes that the student will complete 900 clock hours, and (based on EFC and COA) the student receives the maximum 2022-23 Pell Grant award of \$6,895, paid in disbursements of \$3,448 and \$3,447 for the first and second payment periods (see *Chapter 1* of this volume for guidance on determining payment periods).

The school considers the student to have met the requirements for graduation from the program after the student has completed only 750 of the originally scheduled 900 clock hours. As soon as practicable after determining that the student will meet the graduation requirements after completing only 750 clock hours, the school must recalculate the student's Pell Grant award as if the student had been enrolled in a 750 clock-hour program. Although the school will recalculate the student's award using Formula 4 (as described earlier in this chapter), in this circumstance only the number of clock hours in the payment periods are considered. There is no comparison of hours and weeks fractions, as is normally required with Formula 4.

The school determines the recalculated award amount for each payment period by multiplying the student's \$6,895 Pell Grant award by 375 (the number of clock hours in each payment period based on the total of 750 hours that the student actually completed), then dividing the result by 900 (the number of clock hours in the program's academic year). This results in two recalculated disbursements of \$2,873 each, for a total award of \$5,746. The school reduces the original first disbursement by \$575 and reduces the original second disbursement by \$574, then returns the total difference of \$1,149 to the Department. Note that the school – not the student – is responsible for returning the excess Pell Grant funds in this situation.

The recalculation requirement described above applies only to clock-hour programs, and it applies regardless of the length of the program or remaining portion of a program. For example, if a student who received Pell Grant funds for enrollment in a 600 clock-hour program meets the graduation requirements after completing only 500 clock hours, the student's Pell Grant award must be recalculated.

Appendix A

Pell Formula 2: Calculations for Standard-Term Programs With Less Than 30 Weeks in Fall Through Spring

The regulations provide an option for standard-term programs whose fall through spring terms provide less than 30 weeks of instructional time. Formula 2 may be advantageous for your summer term calculations. You may use Formula 2 if the program:

- has an academic calendar that consists of two semesters or trimesters (in the fall through the following spring) or three quarters (in the fall, winter, and spring);
- does not have overlapping terms; and

- measures progress in credit-hours and defines full-time enrollment for each term in the award year as at least 12 credit-hours.

Formula 2 Alternate calculation

Under Formula 2, you can perform the same alternate calculation as performed under Formula 1 if the weeks of instructional time in the defined academic year are the same as the total number of weeks of instructional time in all the terms in the award year. See the example for alternate calculation under the discussion of Formula 1 earlier in this chapter.

Regulatory citations

[34 CFR 690.63\(a\)\(2\)](#)

[34 CFR 690.63\(c\)](#)

Formula 2: Calculation for standard terms with fall through spring terms less than 30 weeks

The regulations offer an alternative formula for standard-term programs with fall through spring standard terms that provide less than 30 weeks of instructional time. The significant effect of this formula is to allow you to pay the same Pell amount for the summer term as you would for a traditional fall through spring term. To use this formula, the program must have two semesters or trimesters (in the fall through the following spring) or three quarters (in the fall, winter, and spring), with no overlapping terms, and must define full-time enrollment for each term in the award year as at least 12 credit-hours.

Let’s take the example of Javier, who is attending Heyward College, which has fall and spring semesters of 14 and 15 weeks, and a summer term of 10 weeks. Heyward defines the academic year of Javier’s program as 24 semester hours and 30 weeks.¹ His Scheduled Award is \$3,450, and he is attending as a full-time student. Because the fall and spring terms provide less than the minimum 30 weeks of instructional time for an academic year, Javier’s full-time award is prorated as follows:

$$(29 \text{ weeks}^1 \text{ in term}^2 \times \$3,450) \div 30 \text{ weeks}^1 \text{ in academic year} = \$3,335$$

This prorated amount is then divided by the number of terms: $\$3,335 \div 2 = \$1,667.50$

Javier will receive \$3,335 for his attendance in both semesters. Note that this is less than his Scheduled Award, so he may be able to receive the remainder of his Scheduled Award, plus up to an additional 50% of his Scheduled Award, if he enrolls at least half time during the summer (see the Year-Round Pell and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant section earlier in this chapter).

The difference between Formula 2 and Formula 3 lies in whether you must make a separate calculation for each term. Under Formula 2, you do not have to perform a separate calculation based on the length of each term. Javier’s Pell eligibility as a full-time student would be \$1,667.50 under Formula 2. If Heyward College used Formula 3, the annual award would be prorated based on the length of each term: 14 weeks (14/30), 15 weeks (15/30), and 10 weeks (10/30), and Javier’s payments for the payment periods would be \$1,556.33, \$1,667.50, and \$1,111.66, respectively.

Javier has remaining Pell eligibility for the summer term under both formulas. Javier may have additional eligibility for summer if he is enrolled at least half time and eligible for Year-Round Pell.

¹These fractions use weeks of instructional time as defined in Chapter 1, which are not necessarily the same number as the calendar weeks in an academic year.

Appendix B

Pell Formula 5: Calculations for Correspondence Study Programs

Students enrolled in correspondence courses are eligible for aid under FSA programs only if the courses are part of a program leading to an associate's, bachelor's, or graduate degree. In addition, the correspondence program must meet the criteria for an eligible program (see *Volume 2* of the *FSA Handbook*).

Pell Grants for correspondence study

[34 CFR 690.66](#)

Pell COA (correspondence)

The COA for correspondence programs is limited to tuition and fees, and in certain cases, books and supplies. Traditionally, books and supplies are included as part of the tuition for a correspondence program. If books and supplies are not included in the program's tuition, they may be counted as costs, for either a residential or nonresidential period of enrollment. As always, the COA must be based on the costs for a full-time student for a full academic year for the relevant component (for correspondence COA, there would be no room and board, etc.). If the student's program or period of enrollment, as measured in credit hours, is longer or shorter than an academic year as measured in credit hours, the tuition and fees for the program or enrollment period must be prorated.

Because the correspondence study COA for the nonresidential component only includes costs associated with credit hours, your school always uses the credit-hour-related fraction to prorate the COA as follows (because there are no costs associated with weeks of instructional time in the correspondence cost of attendance, your school must prorate the cost only if the number of hours in the program is shorter or longer than in an academic year):

Credit hours in program's definition of an academic year ÷ Credit hours to which the costs apply

The resulting amount is the full-time, full-academic-year cost used for calculating Pell Grant eligibility. **When there is a residential portion in a correspondence student's program, Formula 3 or 4 (whichever applies) is used to calculate the student's payment for a payment period for a residential portion.** Refer to Formula 3 or 4 guidelines, including COA determinations, for this circumstance.

Pell enrollment status (correspondence)

Students enrolled in programs of correspondence study are considered to be no more than half-time students, even if they're enrolled in enough coursework to be full time. However, if the correspondence study is combined with regular coursework, the student's enrollment status might be more than half time.

A student enrolled only in a non-term correspondence program always has their award calculated based on the half-time payment schedule. For a student enrolled in a term-based correspondence program, your school must determine whether the student is enrolled half time (six or more credit-hours in a term) or less than half time (fewer than six credit-hours in a term). Special rules are used to determine the student's enrollment status when the student is enrolled in a combination of regular and correspondence coursework.

Pell correspondence payment periods and timing of payments

For a *non-term* correspondence program, there must be two equal payment periods in each academic year. Each payment period is the lesser of half the academic year or half the program (measured in credit-hours). In addition, you can't disburse a Pell payment for the first payment period until the student has completed 25% of the work in the academic year or the program, whichever is shorter. You can't make the second payment until the student has completed 75% of the work in the academic year or program.

For a *term-based* correspondence program, as for other term-based programs, the payment period is the term. However, you can't disburse Pell for a payment period until the student has completed 50% of the lessons or completes 50% of the work for the term, whichever is later.

If the correspondence program has a required period of *residential training*, you must treat the residential training as an additional payment period and determine the payment for that payment period using either Formula 3 or Formula 4. Note that the correspondence portion of the program is still treated as a separate portion of the program that's divided into two equal payment periods.

Pell calculations in correspondence programs

Formula 5 is used for students enrolled only in correspondence courses (not including residential components of correspondence programs). There are two versions of Formula 5: Formula 5A (which is similar to Formula 4) is used for non-term programs, and Formula 5B (which is similar to Formula 3) is used for term-based programs. For a residential component of a correspondence program, you must use either Formula 3 or Formula 4. If the residential component is a term, you must use Formula 3; otherwise, you use Formula 4.

For non-term correspondence programs, this step of the calculation is similar to the step under Formula 4. For term-based correspondence programs, this step is the same as under Formula 3.

For the Pell calculation, you are required to determine the number of weeks of instructional time in the program by preparing a written schedule for the lessons that the student will submit. A non-term correspondence program must require at least 12 hours of preparation per week. A term-based correspondence program must require at least 30 hours of preparation per semester hour or at least 20 hours of preparation per quarter hour during the term.

Correspondence payment periods

- [34 CFR 690.66\(b\)](#) — non-term
- [34 CFR 690.66\(c\)\(3\)](#) and [\(c\)\(4\)](#) — term-based

Non-term correspondence program—Formula 5A

You first multiply the annual award (taken from the half-time payment schedule) by the lesser of:

Number of credit-hours in the payment period ÷ Credit-hours in program's academic year definition

or

Weeks¹ in the payment period ÷ Weeks¹ in program's academic year definition

Term correspondence program—Formula 5B

You multiply the annual award (taken from the half-time or less-than half- time payment schedule) by the weeks of instructional time in the term divided by the weeks in the academic year:

Weeks¹ in term ÷ Weeks¹ in program's academic year definition

A single disbursement for a payment period can never be more than 50% of the annual award. If the resulting amount is more than 50% of the annual award, your school must make the payment in at least two disbursements in that payment period. You may not disburse an amount that exceeds 50% of the annual award until the student has completed the period of time in the payment period that equals 50% of the weeks of instructional time in the program’s academic year definition.

¹Note: These fractions use weeks of instructional time as defined in *Chapter 1* of this volume, which are not necessarily the same number as the calendar weeks in an academic year.

Correspondence multiple formulas exception

If a correspondence student has one or more payment periods in an award year that contain only correspondence study and one or more payment periods in the same award year that contain a residential portion, your school would use two different formulas for determining a student’s payment for each payment period. This is the only circumstance in which a school would use two different Pell formulas within the same award year for students in the same program.

Academic coursework

The term academic coursework does not necessarily refer to credits. If a student does not earn any credits until the end of the program, it may refer to the lessons or other measures of learning within a course or a program. For instance, if a course or program is made up of 40 equal lessons, the student reaches the halfway point as follows:

- If the student successfully completes the first 20 lessons before the calendar midpoint of the academic year, the second payment period does not begin until the calendar midpoint.
- If the student completes the first half of the academic year before successfully completing the first 20 lessons, the second payment period does not begin until the student successfully completes the first 20 lessons.

Appendix C: Pell Formula Summaries

Formula 1 Summary

Standard-term, credit-hour programs, with 30 weeks of instructional time (or waiver applies). For a program with a traditional academic calendar, the program:

- must have an academic calendar that consists, in the fall through spring, of two semesters or trimesters, or three quarters (note that summer may not be a standard term);
- must have at least 30 weeks of instructional time in fall through spring terms;
- must not have overlapping terms; and
- must define full-time enrollment for each term in the award year as at least 12 credit hours and must measure progress in credit hours.

Other programs offered in standard terms may use Formula 1 if they start the terms for different cohorts of students on a periodic basis (for example, monthly). These programs:

- must have an academic calendar that consists exclusively of semesters, trimesters, or quarters;
- must have at least 30 weeks of instructional time in any two semesters or trimesters or any three quarters;
- must start the terms for different cohorts of students on a periodic basis (for example, monthly);
- must not allow students to be enrolled in overlapping terms and the students must stay with the cohort in which they start unless they withdraw from a term (or skip a term) and re-enroll in a subsequent term; and
- must define full-time enrollment for each term in the award year as at least 12 credit hours and must measure progress in credit hours.

Step 1: Determine Enrollment Status

Full-time, three-quarter-time, half-time, or less-than-half-time

Step 2: Calculate Pell COA

Full-time, full academic year costs.

Step 3: Determine Annual Award

If the student's enrollment status is full time, the annual award is taken from the full-time payment schedule (Scheduled Award). If the student's enrollment status is three quarter time, half time, or less than half time, the annual award is taken from the appropriate part-time payment schedule.

Step 4: Determine Payment Periods

Payment period is the academic term.

Step 5: Calculate Payment for a Payment Period

Annual Award \div 2 for programs with semesters or trimesters or 3 for programs with quarters

OR

For alternate calculation:

Annual Award \div Number of terms in the award year

Formula 2 Summary

Standard-term, credit-hour programs, with fewer than 30 weeks of instructional time, and waiver does not apply.

- Enrollment for at least 12 credit hours each term required for full-time status
- Program terms don't overlap
- Academic calendar includes two semesters/trimesters (fall and spring) or three quarters (fall, winter, and spring)
- Fall through spring terms are less than 30 weeks of instructional time

Step 1: Determine Enrollment Status

Full-time, three-quarter-time, half-time, or less-than-half-time

Step 2: Calculate Pell COA

Full-time, full academic year costs.

Cost for fall through spring terms prorated. If fall through spring terms provide the same number of credit hours as are in the academic year definition, prorated COA is the same as non-prorated COA.

Step 3: Determine Annual Award

If the student's enrollment status is full time, the annual award is taken from the full-time payment schedule (Scheduled Award). If the student's enrollment status is three quarter time, half time, or less than half time, the annual award is taken from the appropriate part-time payment schedule.

Step 4: Determine Payment Periods

Payment period is the academic term.

Step 5: Calculate Payment for a Payment Period

$\text{Annual award} \times (\text{Weeks of instructional time in fall through spring terms} \div \text{Weeks of instructional time in program's academic year definition}) \div 2 (\text{if semesters or trimesters})$ **OR** $3 (\text{if quarters})$

OR

For alternate calculation:

$\text{Annual Award} \div \text{Number of terms in the award year}$

Formula 3 Summary

Any term-based, credit-hour program; may include programs that qualify for Formulas 1 and 2.

Step 1: Determine Enrollment Status

Full-time, three-quarter time, half-time, or less-than-half-time.

Step 2: Calculate Pell COA

Full-time, full academic year costs.

Cost for program or period not equal to academic year prorated. Two fractions are compared:

$\text{Hours in program's definition of academic year} \div \text{Hours to which the costs apply}$

$\text{Weeks of instructional time in program's definition of academic year} \div \text{Weeks of instructional time in the enrollment period to which the costs apply}$

The entire cost is multiplied by the lesser of the two fractions to determine Pell COA.

Step 3: Determine Annual Award

If the student's enrollment status is full time, the annual award is taken from the full-time payment schedule (Scheduled Award). If the student's enrollment status is three quarter time, half time, or less than half time, the annual award is taken from the appropriate part-time payment schedule.

Step 4: Determine Payment Periods

Payment period is the academic term.

Step 5: Calculate Payment for a Payment Period

$\text{Weeks of instructional time in the term} \div \text{Weeks of instructional time in the program's academic year definition}$

Note: A single disbursement can't exceed 50% of the annual award.

Formula 4 Summary

Clock-hour programs and credit-hour programs without terms, residential portion of non-term correspondence programs.

Step 1: Determine Enrollment Status

At least half-time or less-than-half-time.

Step 2: Calculate Pell COA

Full-time, full academic year costs.

Cost for program or period not equal to academic year prorated. Two fractions compared:

Hours in program's definition of academic year ÷ Hours to which the costs apply

Weeks of instructional time in program's definition of academic year ÷ Weeks of instructional time in the enrollment period to which the costs apply

The entire cost is multiplied by the lesser of the two fractions to determine Pell COA.

Step 3: Determine Annual Award

Always taken from full-time payment schedule (equal to Scheduled Award). Does not mean students are always considered full-time.

Step 4: Determine Payment Periods

Length of payment period measured in credit or clock hours. Minimum of two equal payment periods required for programs shorter than an academic year, or two equal payment periods in each full academic year (or final portion longer than half an academic year) for programs longer than or equal to an academic year.

Step 5: Calculate Payment for a Payment Period

Annual award multiplied by the lesser of:

The number of credit or clock hours in the payment period ÷ The number of credit or clock hours in the program's academic year

OR

The number of weeks of instructional time in the payment period ÷ The number of weeks of instructional time in the program's academic year

Note: A single disbursement can't exceed 50% of the annual award.

Formula 5A Summary

Correspondence programs non-term correspondence component. For residential portion, use Formula 4 to calculate payment periods and amounts. The schedule for the submission of lessons must reflect a workload of at least 12 hours of preparation per week of instructional time.

Step 1: Determine Enrollment Status

Enrollment status is never more than half time.

Step 2: Calculate Pell COA

Full-time, full academic year costs (for applicable components).

Cost for program or enrollment period not equal to academic year prorated according to the following formula for tuition and fees:

$\text{Costs} \times (\text{Credit hours in program's definition of academic year} \div \text{Credit hours to which costs apply})$

Step 3: Determine Annual Award

Annual award taken from half-time payment schedule

Step 4: Determine Payment Periods

Length of payment period measured in credit-hours.

The first payment period is the period of time in which the student completes the lesser of the first half of the academic year or the first half of the program. (First payment can be made only after the student has completed 25% of the lessons or otherwise completed 25% of the work scheduled, whichever comes last.)

The second payment period is the period of time in which the student completes the lesser of the second half of the academic year or the second half of the program. (Second payment may be made only after the student has submitted 75% of the lessons or otherwise completed 75% of the work scheduled, whichever comes last.)

Step 5: Calculate Payment for a Payment Period

Annual award is multiplied by the lesser of:

$\text{Number of credit hours in the payment period} \div \text{Number of credit hours in the program's academic year}$

OR

$\text{Weeks of instructional time in the payment period} \div \text{Weeks of instructional time in the program's academic year}$

Note: A single disbursement can't exceed 50% of the annual award.

Formula 5B Summary

Programs of study by correspondence, term correspondence component. During each term, the written schedule for the submission of lessons must reflect a workload of at least 30 hours of preparation per semester hour or at least 20 hours of preparation per quarter hour.

Step 1: Determine Enrollment Status

Enrollment status is never more than half time.

Step 2: Calculate Pell COA

Full-time, full academic year costs (for applicable components).

Cost for program or enrollment period not equal to academic year prorated according to the following formula for tuition and fees:

$\text{Cost} \times (\text{Credit hours in program's definition of academic year} \div \text{Credit hours to which costs apply})$

Step 3: Determine Annual Award

Annual award taken from half-time or less-than-half-time payment schedule.

Step 4: Determine Payment Periods

Length of payment period is the academic term.

Step 5: Calculate Payment for a Payment Period

Annual award multiplied by:

$\text{Weeks of instructional time in the term} \div \text{Weeks of instructional time in program's academic year definition}$

When there is a residential portion in a term-based correspondence program, Formula 3 is used to calculate the student's payment for a payment period for the residential portion.

Note: A single disbursement cannot exceed 50% of the annual award.